

RETAKING SOL ASSESSMENTS

There are opportunities for students to retake Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in Albemarle County Public Schools; however, Sstudents in kindergarten through grades 3 through 8 are not allowed to retake 3 – 8 grade Standards of Learning (SOL) tests unless they are retained in grade and have not previously passed the test. Students in high school or middle school are not required to retake end-of-course SOL tests unless the student previously failed the course and the test, or the student needs to earn verified credit for graduation.

With such funds as are appropriated by the General Assembly, the Board of Education will provide opportunities for students who meet criteria adopted by that board to have an expedited retake of a SOL test to earn verified credit.

Under the criteria established by the state Board, the student must

- Need the test for verified credit; and
- Have passed the course associated with the test, and have met one of the following
- Failed the test by a narrow margin, or
- Failed the test by any margin and have extenuating circumstances that would warrant retesting, or
- Did not sit for the regularly scheduled test for legitimate reasons.

For purposes of these criteria, “narrow margin” means a scaled score of 375-399. The division superintendent will be responsible for making the determination of what constitutes “extenuating circumstances” and “legitimate reasons” for purposes of establishing eligibility for an expedited retest of an end-of-course SOL assessment. Expedited Retakes of SOL Tests for Grades 3-8 and End-Of-Course SOL Tests Administered to Meet Federal Accountability Requirements

The following criteria are used in determining the eligibility of students for an expedited retake of an SOL test for grades 3-8 or an end-of-course SOL test administered to meet federal accountability requirements.

The student must have a passing grade in the class associated with the test and one of the following:

- The student failed the test by a narrow margin as defined as a scaled score of 375-399, or
- The student failed the test with a scaled score below 375 and
 - had a documented extenuating circumstance that prevented the student from performing at the expected level and/or
 - there was a significant discrepancy between the student’s SOL test score and the student’s typical academic performance.

An extenuating circumstance for purposes of expedited retakes of SOL tests for grades 3-8 and end-of-course tests administered to meet federal accountability requirements is defined as an unusual or uncontrollable event that negatively impacted a student’s test performance. Examples of extenuating

circumstances include, but are not limited to, the recent death of a family member, friend, or pet; a traumatic home situation; or other significant personal distress or disruption that does not qualify for irregularity testing.

Evidence that the SOL test score is significantly lower than expected based on the student's typical level of achievement may be used to justify retesting. Data used to establish the student's typical performance may include previous SOL test data in the same content area or evidence of the student's current academic achievement.

Documentation of the unusual circumstances experienced for each student retested under the extenuating circumstances provision and evidence of the student's typical academic achievement for those retesting under the significant achievement discrepancy provision is maintained. The documentation is subject to periodic review by Virginia Department of Education staff on behalf of the Board of Education.

Prior to any expedited retake for students who have failed an SOL test for grades 3-8, the school division obtains, and thereafter maintains, documentation annually of affirmative parental consent and permission for their child to take an expedited retake. Parents of eligible students are notified 1) of the opportunity to retake the test(s), 2) that the decision not to retake any or all of the test(s) will not impact their child's grade or academic record, and 3) of the opt-in requirement.

Expedited Retakes for End-of-Course Tests Needed for Verified Credits

With such funds as are appropriated by the General Assembly, the Board of Education will provide opportunities for students who meet criteria adopted by that Board to have an expedited retake of an SOL test to earn verified credit.

The following are used in determining the eligibility of students for an expedited retake of an end-of-course test for verified credit.

The student must need the test for verified credit, have a passing grade in the course associated with the test, and have

- failed the test by a narrow margin defined as a scaled score of 375-399, or
- failed the test by any margin and had extenuating circumstances that would warrant retesting.

Extenuating circumstances for the purposes of expedited retakes of end-of-course tests needed for verified credit are defined by the superintendent but must be restricted to situations that specifically affect the student who is being retested. Extenuating circumstances may include the need to pass the test to graduate.

Adopted: December 11, 2014

Amended: May 26, 2016

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-30[_](#)

8 VAC 20-131-110[_](#)

Guidance Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public School in Virginia 8 VAC 20-131 (Virginia Board of Education as amended January 13, 2011) Revisions to the Criteria for the Determination of Student Eligibility for Expedited Retakes of Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests, Virginia Board of Education, March 22, 2018.

Cross Refs: IKF The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

IKG Remediation Recovery Program

ILM-IML Testing/Assessment/Program Evaluation