



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

8 VAC 20-160 – Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts **Department of Education** May 31, 2000

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The Board of Education (board) proposes to revise the Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts in order to be consistent with changes in the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (Standards of Accreditation). Under the Standards of Accreditation, students will be required to earn a prescribed number of verified units in order to graduate.¹ Students who receive a passing score on an end-of-course Standards of Learning (SOL) exam and receive a passing grade in the course, are awarded a verified unit of credit for the course. The board's revisions to the Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts include adding the total number of verified credits earned to the list of items required to be recorded on student transcripts and adding language that specifically prohibits the recording of the student's SOL exam scores on their transcript.

¹ This requirement will take effect starting with the ninth-grade class of 2000-20001 (graduating class of 2004).

Estimated Economic Impact

The proposed requirement to record verified credits on transcripts would not have any significant economic impact. It may reduce the already small probability that a school would mistakenly award a diploma to a student who had not earned a sufficient number of verified credits.

The proposal to add language that prohibits the recording of the student's SOL test scores on their transcript seems to unnecessarily eliminate information that could be useful to college admissions committees and students. The regulations do require that transcripts include "results on college performance-related standardized tests such as College Entrance Examination Board or equivalent." Presuming that the SOL exams are well designed and do provide reasonably accurate indications of students' knowledge and abilities, SOL scores could be used by admissions staff to more accurately determine the best-qualified students. Students who score below their true ability on the SATs due to illness or some other unfortunate event, would have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and ability on other exams (the SOLs) that are standardized across schools. Students who perform poorly on one SOL exam due to illness, etc., would have the SATs and other SOL exams to demonstrate that that one unfortunate score may not truly represent their knowledge and ability. Thus, if the SOL exams are well designed and do provide reasonably accurate indications of students' knowledge and abilities, prohibiting the recording of SOL exam scores rather than requiring their inclusion may reduce the likelihood that college admissions staffs will be able to determine which applicants are best qualified for admission.²

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed changes to the regulation will affect secondary schools and students within all 132 public school divisions in the Commonwealth.

Localities Particularly Affected

All localities in the Commonwealth are affected by this regulation

² According to the Department of Education, the board chose not to require the inclusion of SOL exam scores on transcripts due to objections from local division personnel and parents. No further explanation was given.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed changes to this regulation are unlikely to affect employment

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed changes are not anticipated to have any significant effects on the use and value of private property.