

## **ELAAC Agenda, 11/29**

**7:00-8:30 PM: Syphax Education Center, Rooms 254 / 256**

**Participants:** Mike Miller, Gaby Rivas, Linda Arnsbarger, Kate Merrill, Gail Perry

### **I. Introductions (7:00-7:10)**

Mike Miller, Chair

Kate Merrill, Co-Chair

Sarah Cruz, Supervisor, Secondary ELA

Gaby Rivas, Supervisor, Elementary ELA

Introduction of Committee Members

### **II. Updates from ELA (7:10-7:45)**

A. All in Tutoring – Gaby shared a flyer for the All In Tutoring high intensity program, aimed at grades 3-8. APS is recruiting paid tutors to provide the tutoring services. This is part of a VDOE initiative.

B. NWEA Map Growth Reading and DIBELS Assessment Results. Gaby presented the DIBELS reading test data for grades K-5 at the beginning of the school year, including 3-year history data for subgroups. All data presented is available on the APS Statistics webpages at <https://apsva.us/statistics>. The three-year trend shows positive progress for all subgroups.

Gaby also presented the 3-Year SOL Data for all grades (3-8, 11). The results also are encouraging.

The State is developing new ELA Standards of Learning (SOL) for K-12 which also will include new tests. The standards are expected in March 2024, but it is not known whether the new tests will be implemented for spring 2024 or 2025. APS will need to re-align its curriculum to the new SOL standards.

### **III. CKLA Alignment with VDOE standards (7:45-8:00)**

The alignment team has already aligned the CKLA Amplify K-5 curriculum with the VDOE Standards of Learning for English Reading and Writing. Because CKLA includes substantial nonfiction content, an ELA working team reviewed the alignment of the ELA curriculum materials with the current VDOE ELA Standards of Learning for Science and Social Studies. Kindergarten has substantial overlap while other grades do not have much content overlap but do have significant

skills overlap. CKLA is intended to provide ELA instruction, not Science or Social Studies instruction, but the alignment exercise addresses both reinforcing instruction and eliminating redundancies. VDOE is also revising the Social Studies Standards of Learning for K-12 which may create new opportunities or challenges for alignment with the ELA curriculum. CLKA includes significantly more writing work product and more advanced writing skills than the prior curriculum.

#### **IV. Committee Vote on 2023-2024 Recommendations (8:00-8:30)**

Discussion of revisions to recommendations to clarify intent with respect to writing coaches and literacy intervention coaches, and review of research basis for recommendations. Kate and Mike to revise accordingly.

Due to the low attendance, it was agreed that Mike would circulate the recommendations and ask for a vote by email.

The schedule:

- 11/20 draft recommendations submitted to ELA staff for comment
- 12/15 ELA staff comments due
- 1/2 draft recommendations to ACTL
- 1/3 ELAAC presents recommendations to ACT, 7:00 pm, Syphax room 256,
- 1/4 ACTL sends recommendations to Board, 6:30 pm Syphax, 2nd floor Board Room
- 1/9 ELAAC presents recommendations to Board at Work Session,

#### **V. Future Topics for Consideration**

##### **A. Lack of Reading and Writing Interventions in High Schools**

##### **B. Performance-Based Assessments**

###### Option for PBAs in lieu of SOL exams

The state has identified a few areas where performance-based assessments can be used in lieu of SOL exams. It is not available in all content areas.

- Social Studies high school credit bearing courses (World Geography, World History I, World History II and VA/US History)
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade writing

The area that Arlington currently participates in is Social Studies. While writing may be added in the future, we are currently working to support students to be successful on the new state integrated reading and writing assessment and so are not moving to the performance assessment for credit in ELA at this time.

#### Regarding APS's use of the Social Studies option

Note that this **only pertains to HS credit-bearing courses in social studies**. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Virginia Studies and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Civics and Economics still take the traditional end-of-course SOL exam.

Also, per VDOE, high school students need only one “verified credit” in social studies to graduate (A verified credit is a HS credit for which the student has passed the class AND passed the SOL exam.). As a result, if we were still giving the SOL exam, once students passed an SOL they would not take additional SOL exams in their future social studies courses. So, if a student passed World Geography and the associated SOL exam, they would only need to pass their future classes and would not take the SOL exam for those classes.

In contrast, HS students in APS do do the state-developed PBAs in each class they take of World Geo, World History I, World History II, and VA/US History, even if they have already earned their verified credit for a previous SS course. The SS PBAs are document-based questions (ie, an essay that includes the student's knowledge of the topic AND several sources).

Students do multiple state-developed PBAs over the course of the year in these classes (at least 2 in World History II and at least 3 in World Geography, World History I, and VA/US History). They must also demonstrate an understanding of all the content and skills of the course through a variety of teacher-created assessments. Thus, student achievement is assessed throughout the year, not in one test at the end of the year.

#### Earning the verified credit

- The rubrics are developed by VDOE. Teachers participate in calibration sessions to develop consistency of scoring using the state rubric.
- The first performance assessment is scored twice. Both scores come from teachers who are not the student's teacher of record (classroom teacher). If there is disagreement in the scores, a third scorer will review the submission.
- Subsequent performance assessments may be scored by the teacher of record (classroom teacher)
  - A school-based panel of three educators reviews the evidence from the state developed performance assessments, as well as the other evidence of student learning of each standard in the course, in order to determine if the student earns a verified credit for the course.
  - The state does not allow a retake or revision of a state-developed PBA. If the student does not earn the verified credit, next steps would vary based on why. If the student failed the course, then they might go to summer school to pass the class. In that case they might take the traditional SOL at the end of summer school. If the student passed the class but was lacking evidence that they met certain standards, the panel might ask for additional evidence to review. It might also be determined that a student

could wait until their next social studies class to earn the verified credit (since students only need one VERIFIED credit).

#### Communicating with parents

PBAs are given throughout the school year. Currently, parents can typically see their student's score on a PBA in Canvas just like any other assignment score, along with the assignment itself and the rubric.

APS is working on getting PBA scores entered into test history in Parent Vue so that parents can see scores there and not have to rely on individual teachers to communicate scores.

#### Meeting standards v. Exceeding

The VDOE rubric is a 5-point system. The highest level includes language such as "in-depth understanding" and "made significant, specific connections between multiple sources" and "Responded to the task with a decisive and knowledgeable explanation beyond conventional conclusions"

Additionally, APS works with teachers on extending for students by aiming for students to develop the next level of the skill.

APS uses the VDOE 5-point rubric to score all our required APS performance assessments in grades K-12 (even the assessments that weren't developed by the state). APS currently gives at least two PBAs in social studies at each grade level.

(APS is also working on trying to have those scores entered into test history so that parents can have a sense of how their students are performing on these kinds of assessments in social studies well before they get to the high school credit phase.)

#### For more information

State resources on this at this [webpage](#). The Guidelines for Locally Awarded Verified Credit document outlines the process. The Social Studies Process is option two in the document. Option one is for students who take, and do not pass, the SOL exam and meet other criteria.

Info on APS website: <https://www.apsva.us/curriculum/social-studies/>

