



Department of Assessment and Accountability

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SOL Expedited Retakes for Elementary and Middle Schools Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

On March 26, 2015 The Virginia State Board of Education approved a plan to extend expedited retakes of non-writing SOL tests to the elementary and middle school levels beginning with the 2015 spring administration. This document answers the most frequently asked questions about the plan for Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) and may differ from practices in other divisions.

What is an expedited retake?

An expedited retake is an opportunity for a student to retake an SOL test if the score from the original attempt is between 375 and 399. Tests must be retaken within the same administration as the original attempt and remediation is required before the second attempt.

Which tests are available for expedited retakes?

Expedited retakes will be offered for all non-writing 3rd – 8th grade SOL tests:

- Grade 3 Reading and Math
- Grade 4 Reading and Math
- Grade 5 Reading, Math, Science, and VA Studies
- Grade 6 Reading, Math, and Civics & Economics
- Grade 7 Reading and Math
- Grade 8 Reading, Math, and Science

Are schools required to offer students the opportunity to retest in any non-writing subjects?

Yes.

How many expedited retake attempts can be offered to a student?

Students in grades 3-8 taking non-writing SOL tests can take only one expedited retake per course/subject, and it must be attempted in the same test administration as the initial failing attempt.

How will parents be notified of this process and parental consent given for expedited retakes?

At the high school level, passing SOL tests are a graduation requirement and parent permission is not required or obtained. However, at the elementary and middle school levels, parents must consent for their children to retake any SOL test. Schools will either send a permission letter home to every child prior to testing or to the children eligible to retest once the initial scores are received. The letter states that parents can consent to have their child retest only some subject areas.

Are there any other guidelines about parent permission for expedited retakes?

Parents cannot be coerced or overly encouraged to give permission for their child to retest. There can be no punitive action to a student as a result of not retaking a test. Parents can consent to one or all of the tests for which their child is eligible, and can withdraw consent at any time. The written permission form must be received before a retest can occur. Discretion and sensitivity should be used when informing students of their eligibility to retake an SOL test.

When will expedited retakes occur?

The expedited retake schedule will be determined by the administrators at each school. Tests may be re-administered after each subject or all at once upon completion of initial testing. Additionally, the second attempt **must** be administered within three (3) weeks of the initial test's score reporting. However, consideration should be given to the amount of time needed for remediation and retests when planning to give all second attempts in June. **All expedited retakes must be completed by Friday, June 7, 2019.**

What happens if a student is absent on their scheduled expedited retake session date?

If the student returns before the end of the school year, the expedited retake is treated the same way an absence for the original attempt would have been treated. If the student does **not** return before the end of the school year, there is no penalty, the original score is reported, and no further action is required.

If an SOL test typically spans more than one day due to an accommodation, what is the retest schedule?

SOL expedited retakes are designed to mirror the original SOL test. Therefore, an SOL test that is administered over two days to students with accommodations will have a two-day retest administration. Those days should be consecutive.

Is remediation necessary before a child retakes an SOL test?

Yes. Schools may determine the type of remediation and the length of remediation necessary. Power Up, Core Plus, and other forms of remediation may be used.