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# **Virginia's Web-based Standards of Learning Technology Initiative Update**

**Southern Regional Education Board**  
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**Assistant Superintendent for Technology**

# A Statewide Initiative: Four Goals



1. Provide a minimum ratio of 1 computer for every 5 high school students
2. Create Internet-ready local area network capability in every high school
3. Assure high-speed, high-bandwidth capabilities for instructional, remedial, and testing needs in every high school
4. Establish a statewide Standards of Learning test delivery system

# Technology Challenges

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- User interface & workstation hardware
- Connectivity and server requirements
- Security
- Product support, training, & documentation
- Scalability
- Reliability and levels of service

- Architectural Guidelines
- Certification Process

Stage 1:  
Self-Certification Checklist  
(Based on Architectural Guidelines)

Stage 2:  
Network Performance Testing

Stage 3:  
Completion of Pre-Testing Checklist

# Assessment Challenges



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- Interface with existing assessment contractor
  - Presentation of tests and ancillary materials/manipulatives
  - Data management
  - Scoring and reporting
  - Test security
  - User training and support
  - Scalability

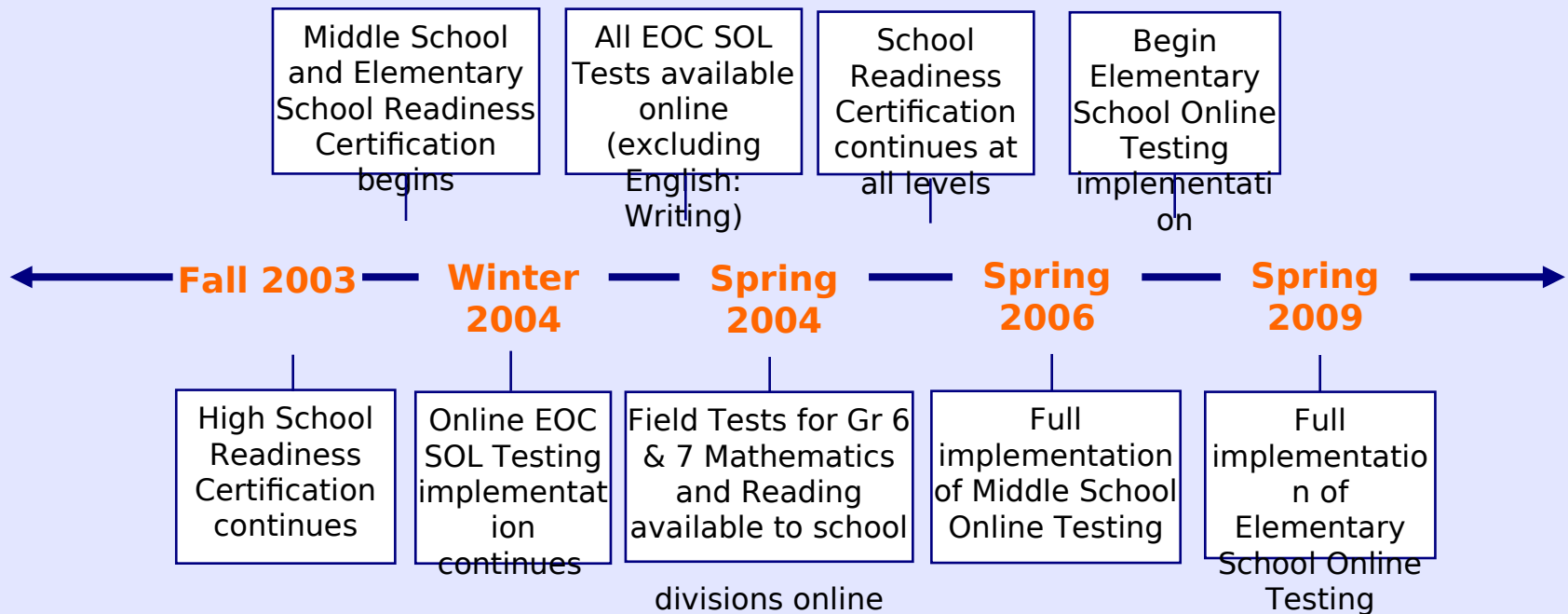
# Assessment Approach

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- Phased implementation
- Demonstration phase
- Comparability studies
- Gradual introduction of various End-of-Course (EOC) tests
- Alignment of paper and on-line test procedures/materials
- Voluntary participation by school divisions

# SOL Technology Initiative Timeline



<sup>1</sup>Timeline is subject to change.

# Initiative Funding for Divisions

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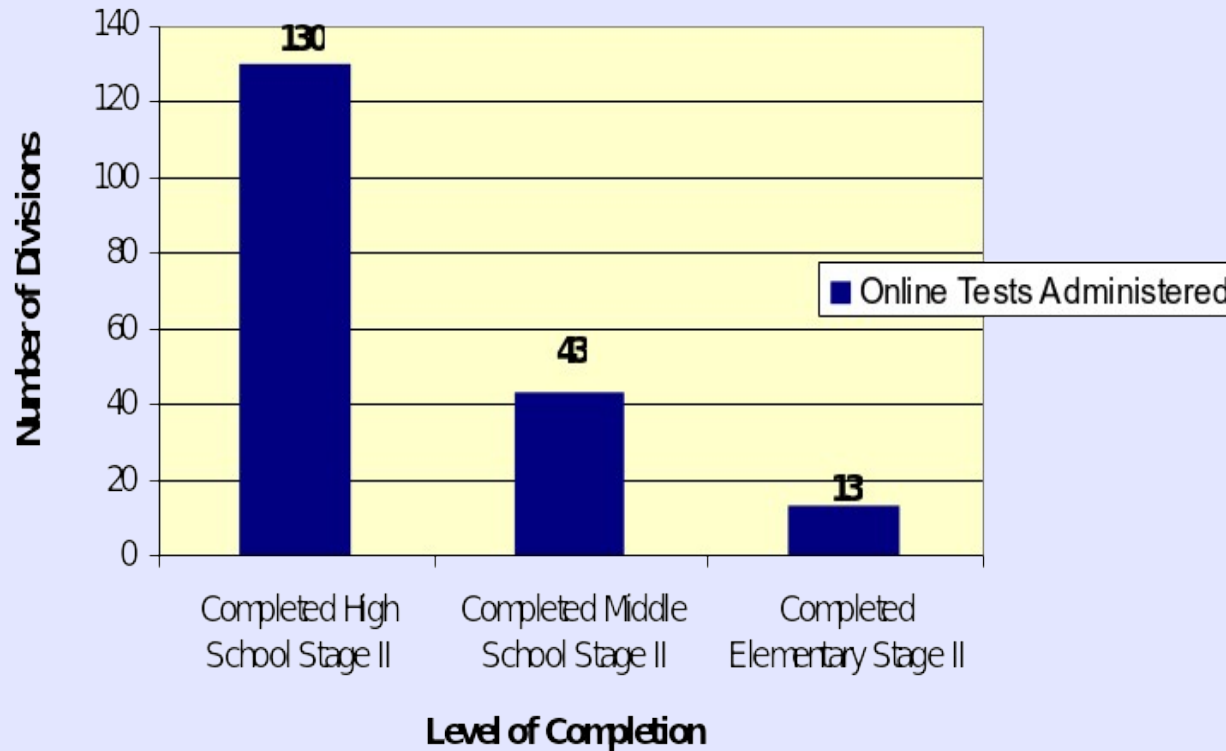
- Available for capital expenditures in the form of reimbursements
- Concentrated on targeted grade levels (HS, MS or ES)
- Funds raised via VPSA bond sales (annually):
  - Series I (Fully expended by divisions - \$57.2M)
  - Series II (Fully expended by divisions - \$58.3M)
  - Series III (Complete by Sept 2004 - \$58.3M (75% claimed))
  - Series IV (Complete by Sept 2005 - \$58.3M (18% claimed))



# Current Readiness Certification Status



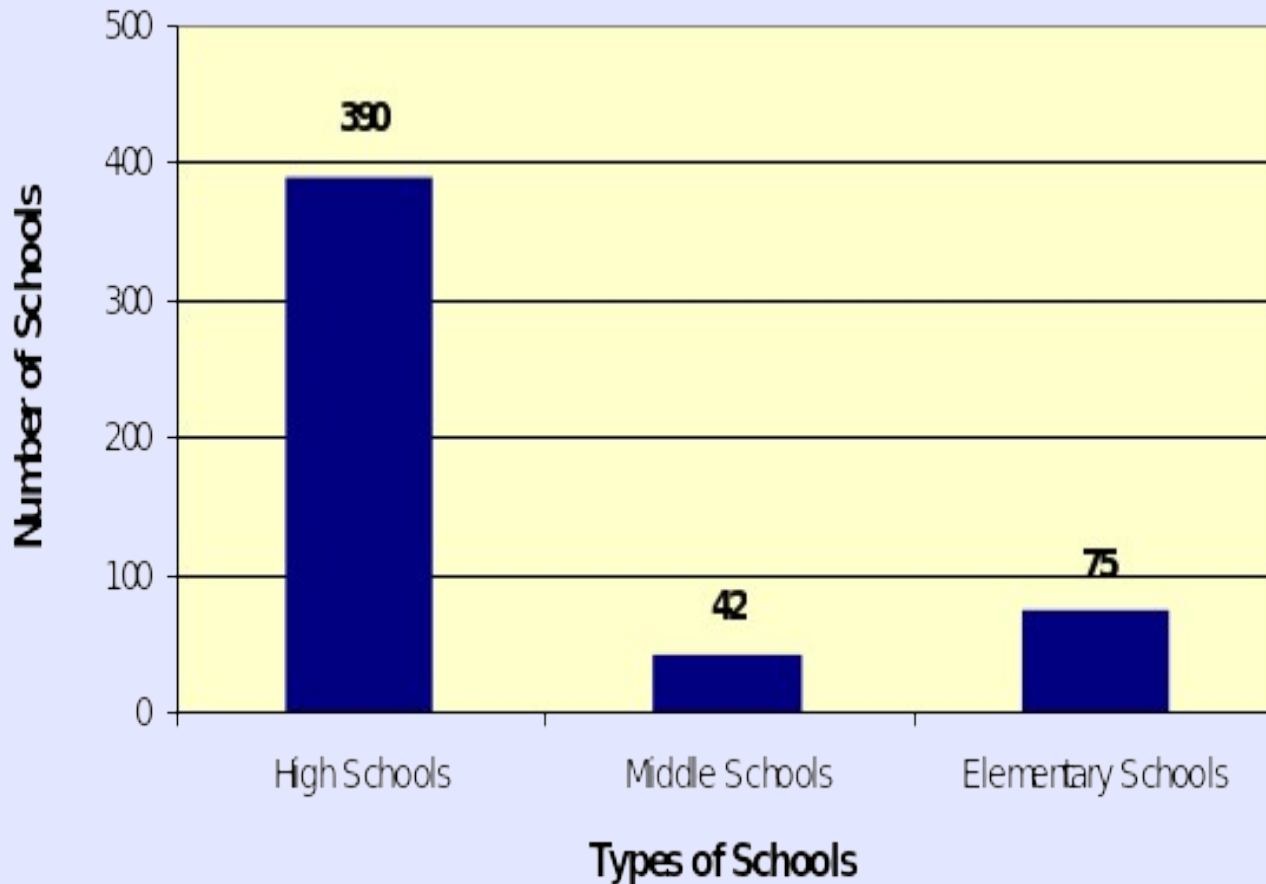
By DIVISION: Stage II School Readiness Certification Completed



# Current Readiness Certification Status



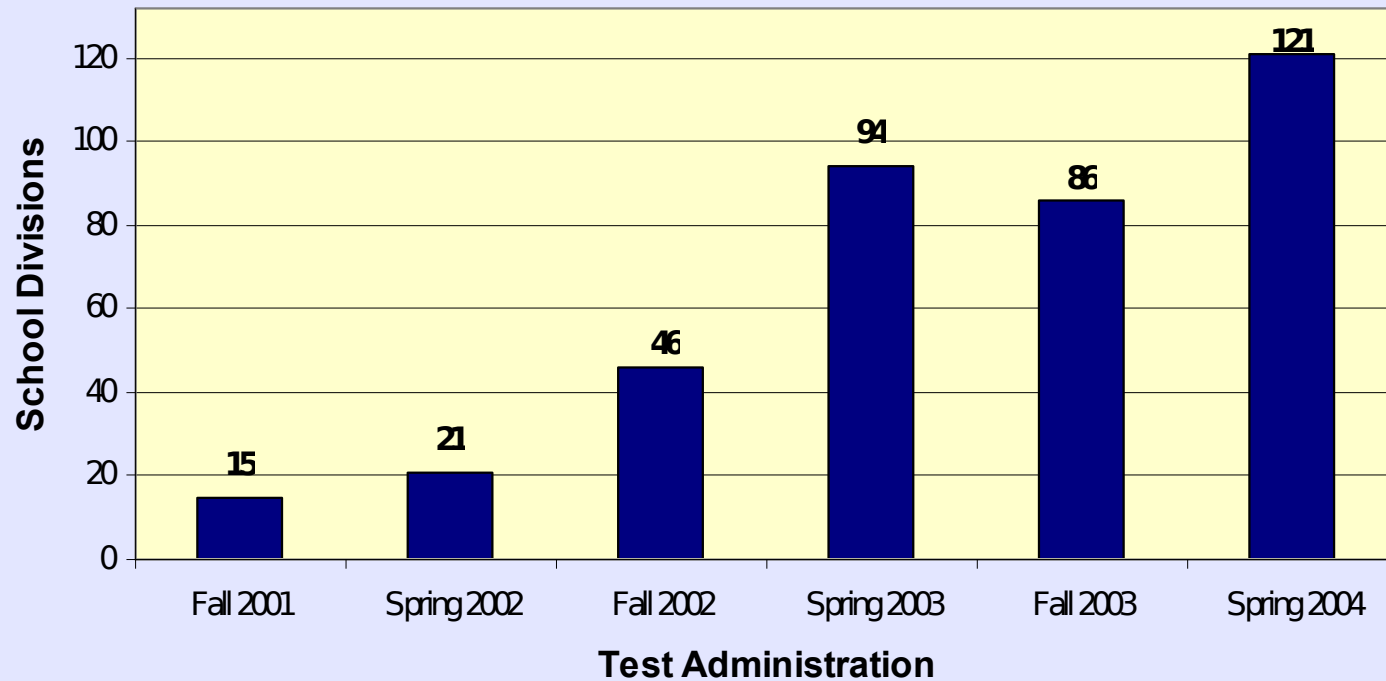
By SCHOOL: Stage II School Readiness Certification Completion



# Online End-of-Course Tests



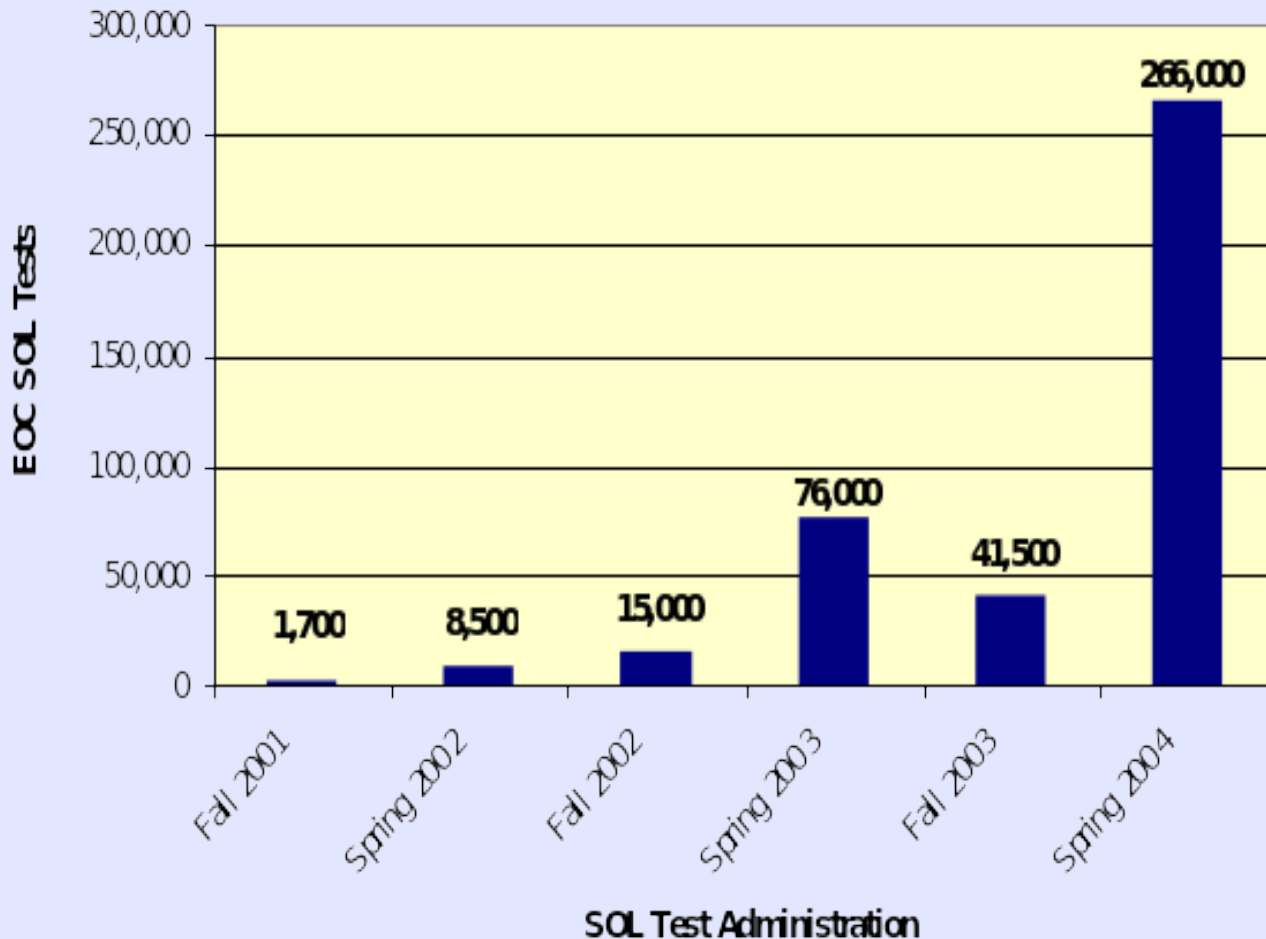
**Number of School Divisions Administering  
End-of-Course Online SOL Tests**



# Online End-of-Course Tests Administered



Number of End-of-Course SOL Tests Administered Online



# Spring 2004: End-of-Course Tests Available Online



- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Geometry (Comp Study)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- English: Reading
- VA & US History (1995/2001 Versions)
- World History I (1995/2001 Versions)
- World History II (1995/2001 Versions)
- World Geography (1995/2001 Versions)

Audio versions available in:  
Algebra I, Biology, English: Reading, VA & US  
History

- First opportunity for online testing below the high school level
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading and/or Mathematics
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading and/or Mathematics
- 16 participating school divisions
- Approximately 11,000 field tests administered online

# 2004 - Spring 2005: Continued Implementation



- All EOC tests available online (except English:Writing)
- All EOC forms to be available as Audio Versions (except 1995 History tests)
- Spring 2005 Reading and Mathematics field test
- Technical assistance to divisions in achieving Stage II School Readiness Certification
- Technical assistance to divisions in instructional use of technology investment and use of student data
- Series IV Funds continue to be expended
- Series V Funds to become available in May 2005

# Initiative Success Factors

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- Widespread enthusiasm by users
- Ease of access to online vs. paper
- 1/3 to 1/2 of assessment program on-line
- Rapid tests results turnaround (after equating)
- Convenient for student test retakes
- Expanded administrative access to test data
- No security breach of online or server cached tests
- Students “believe” they do better on-line