The Board of Education is seeking public comments on proposed Standards of Learning for Computer/Technology to be completed by grade 12. These standards affirm the Board's commitment to high academic standards and to ensure mastery of skills, which will result in students who are both computer literate and competent in the application of technology tools to support their learning needs. The proposed standards may be reviewed at the Department of Education's web site at www.pen.k12.va.us

The Computer/Technology Standards by the End of Grades Five and Eight identify technology skills for improving student learning through the integration of technology across the curriculum. Mastery of these basic skills results in students who are both computer literate and competent in the application of technology tools to support their learning needs.

It is the Board's position that in grades nine through twelve, technology skills continue to be integrated across the curriculum, not taught as a separate class. The expectation is that all teachers will be responsible for the student's mastery of these skills. While the proposed standards also identify essential skills for the student's appropriate use of existing and emerging technology tools for communication, productivity, management, research, problem solving, and decision making, the goal is that students in these grades expand and build upon these skills to achieve a higher mastery in the use of technology; therefore testing is unnecessary.

Written comments may be submitted prior to May 12,2000 directly to Lan Neugent, Assistant Superintendent for Technology, Department of Education, PO Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120. Comments may also be emailed to techsol@pen.k12.va.us. If you need additional information regarding the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Neugent at (804) 225-2757.