# Superintendent’s Memo #074-19

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: April 5, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: SAVE THE DATE – Professional Development: Supporting Instruction and Deeper Learning through Balanced Assessment

On January 24, 2019, the Virginia Board of Education updated and adopted [*Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2018-2019 through 2019-2020*](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/025-19a.docx). As indicated by these guidelines, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will provide professional development for all school divisions regarding the development of Balanced Assessment Plans. Four regional one-day events will focus on creating and using a balanced approach to assessment across content areas to support and inform instruction and the development of deeper learning competencies.

Event participants will consider how balanced assessment not only measures rigorous academic content but also supports instruction and includes opportunities for students to develop proficiency in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship. Participants will consider how deeper learning is guided and informed by a variety of assessments, the frequency and types of assessments within a balanced assessment system, and the connections between a Balanced Assessment Plan and the overall mission and vision of the school division. School division teams will also have the opportunity to network and share current work to support collaboration.

Participants should bring or have electronic access to their Local Alternative Assessment Plans to use as they begin development of a local Balanced Assessment Plan. Optional supporting materials participants are encouraged to consider bringing include, but are not limited to, local curriculum, sample formative and summative assessments, and existing division- and/or school-level goals and plans for assessment and/or instruction.

Each school division is encouraged to register, at the location closest to the division, a team of up to five that includes personnel responsible for implementing performance assessments and providing related professional development for teachers and school administrators. Requests for larger divisions to have more than five leaders attend will be considered on a space-available basis.

**School divisions are encouraged to save the date to attend the session closest to their division. The workshops will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn by 4:00 p.m. Specifics on how to register for a training session will be provided in a later email.**

The scheduled dates and locations are as follows:

* **May 29, 2019: Abingdon, VA**
* **May 30, 2019: Staunton, VA**
* **June 10, 2019: Charlottesville, VA**
* **June 11, 2019: Chesapeake, VA**

If you have questions, please contact the student assessment staff at [Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2102.

JFL/SLR/sw