# Superintendent’s Memo #212-19

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

DATE: August 30, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Updates to the Understand Scoring Application

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to notify school divisions that the [Understand Scoring application](https://va.scoring.pearsonassessments.com/understandscoring/) is now updated to provide resources related to local high school performance assessments used to verify credits in writing. Understand Scoring has been available to educators for several years to provide information about the grade 5, grade 8, and end-of-course Standards of Learning (SOL) writing assessments. The application includes the rubrics and anchor papers that illustrate each score point of each domain, and it provides users with the opportunity to practice scoring several sets of papers written by Virginia students. After users practice scoring student papers, the application allows users to verify their scoring proficiency by evaluating the accuracy of the scores assigned to a final set of papers, or a verification set.

To support school divisions in implementing local high school performance assessments to verify credits in writing, the Understand Scoring application now has a new section with anchor papers and practice sets written by Virginia students in response to performance tasks. Educators will be able to review the anchor papers with annotations along with the rubric for scoring local performance assessments and then practice scoring student papers. In a future release coming this year, Understand Scoring will provide two verification sets for school divisions to use to help ensure teachers are knowledgeable and prepared to score papers included in students’ final writing bodies of evidence.

For teachers who already have an account within Understand Scoring, the new section related to local high school performance assessments is accessible after logging into the application. For teachers who need to create a new Understand Scoring user account, school division English supervisors have the needed information to create a new account.

Teachers may also use this program with their students to facilitate student understanding of the expectations in each of the domains. The “Guest User” functionality was designed specifically to allow students and parents to access the system without having to create an account or save information.

For further information regarding [Understand Scoring](https://va.scoring.pearsonassessments.com/understandscoring/), please contact Jill Nogueras, Coordinator of English, at [Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2227, or student assessment staff at [Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2102.

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