# Superintendent’s Memo #236-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 27, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Updates to the Online Desmos Virginia Calculators for the 2019-2020 School Year

As stated in [Superintendent’s Memo #144-18](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2018/144-18.shtml) and [Superintendent’s Memo #043-19](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/043-19.docx), Virginia versions of the online calculators from [Desmos](https://www.desmos.com/testing/virginia) were made available to students within the secure online test delivery software, TestNav, when taking certain online Standards of Learning (SOL) mathematics assessments beginning with the spring 2019 test administration.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Desmos made updates to the Standard versions of their online calculators. However, no updates were made to the Desmos Virginia Calculators during that time to ensure a standardized testing environment throughout the 2018-2019 SOL test administrations. In preparation for the 2019-2020 SOL test administrations, the Desmos Virginia Scientific Calculator and the Desmos Virginia Graphing Calculator have been updated to include some additional features. For example, the Desmos Virginia Graphing Calculator now has the fraction to decimal conversion and statistical features including normal distribution. No updates are being made to the Desmos Virginia Four-Function Calculator, and no further updates to any of the Desmos Virginia Calculators are anticipated until after the summer 2020 SOL test administration.

The Desmos Virginia Calculators are free to use, and beginning in fall 2019, they will be available from app stores which will allow students to access a specific Desmos Virginia Calculator without having an internet connection. Information regarding how to access the Desmos Virginia Calculators via the app stores will be forthcoming to school divisions.

For additional information on how the Desmos Virginia Calculators differ from the Standard Desmos Calculators view the [Desmos Virginia Information document](https://www.desmos.com/state-pdfs/VA_Desmos_Calculators.pdf).

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

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