# Superintendent’s Memo #237-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 27, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Resources for the New Reading Tests Assessing the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*

As stated in [Superintendent’s Memorandum #260-18](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2018/260-18.docx), dated September 14, 2018, implementation of the new reading tests based on the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* (SOL) will begin with the spring 2020 administration for the End-of-Course (EOC) reading test and grades 3 through 8 reading tests. This memo introduces resources for the new reading tests.

# **New Test Blueprints**

Test blueprintsfor the new reading tests have been developed and are posted on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) [English](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml) web page. The blueprints indicate the reporting categories for each test, the number of test items in each reporting category, and the number of field test items per test.

# **SOL Practice Items**

An updated practice item set is available for each new reading SOL test. These practice items provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of test questions that will be administered to assess the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*.

Practice items must be accessed via the installable TestNav 8 application. See the [TestNav 8 Technical Assistance Document](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8/testnav8-tech-assistance.pdf)(PDF) for information on the system requirements to access TestNav 8, along with instructions for downloading the [TestNav 8 application](https://support.assessment.pearson.com/display/TN/Set%2Bup%2Band%2BUse%2BTestNav). Guided practice suggestions accompany these practice test items to provide specific guidance for teachers or other adults to lead students through the questions. This guidance may be found on the VDOE [TestNav 8 SOL Practice Items](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8.shtml) web page.

**Audio SOL Practice Items**

Audio versions of the new reading practice item sets have been updated to reflect the change in how this accommodation will be delivered in online versions of the new reading tests. For students assigned an online audio version of the new reading test beginning in spring 2020, the audio accommodation will be delivered through text-to-speech audio tools. These tools vary from the traditional audio player found in previous online audio tests. The audio versions of the new reading practice items will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the function of these audio tools. Guidance on using the online text-to-speech audio tools may be found in the Guided Practice Suggestions on the VDOE [TestNav8 SOL Practice Items](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8.shtml) web page.

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

JFL/SLR/sw