# Superintendent’s Memo #266-19

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

DATE: November 1, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Announcing Comprehensive Literacy Webinar Series

As a follow-up to Superintendent’s Memo 249-19, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will host a variety of webinars focused on best practices in literacy instruction and resources available to school divisions. Through the diverse expertise of our partners and presenters, our goal is to offer timely, research-based, and instructionally sound sessions to Virginia educators.

Our first webinar will be offered on Monday, November 18,2019 at 10:30 a.m. Participants may register at [November 18th “Comprehensive Literacy-Best Practices for Elementary Reading Blocks”](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oArFW9_XQTOCNmTcSlcv7Q) webinar. We will discuss best practices around elementary reading blocks with a panel of experts from the field and from the University of Richmond.

Below, please find the schedule for 2020. Additional registration links will be made available on the [English *Standards of Learning* webpage](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml).

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| **Webinar** | **PURPOSE / INFO** | **Date** |
| Best Practices in K-2 Reading Instruction | Participants will review researched best practices in early literacy and learn how to spiral learning structures to promote beginning reading skills. | Tuesday, January 14 at  9 a.m. or Thursday,  January 16 at 2 p.m. |
| Best Practices in Grades 3-5 Reading Instruction: The Reading/Writing Connection | Conversations with teachers and division-level leaders around best practices in upper elementary reading. Focus will include the use of integrated strands and paired passages for critical thinking and engagement. | Tuesday, January 14 at  2 p.m. or Thursday,  January 16 at 9 a.m. |
| Reading in the Middle Grades | Conversations with teachers and division-level leaders around best practices in middle school language arts. Focus will include the use of integrated strands and paired passages for critical thinking and engagement. | Tuesday, January 21 at  9 a.m. or Thursday, January 23 at 2 p.m. |
| Sharing with School Divisions Lessons Learned from Divisions on Best Instructional Practices | Webinar aimed at division-level English supervisors and leaders to address findings from the VDOE interviews with schools that maintained or went up in their 2018-2019 Standards of Learning (SOL) Reading data. Collaboration with Assessment Office. | Tuesday, January 21 at  2 p.m. or Thursday, January 23 at 9 a.m. |
| Balanced Assessment: Middle School Writing in the History Classroom | Participants will receive strategies for creating interdisciplinary tasks that integrate middle school English writing skills with middle school history content and historical thinking strategies. Collaboration with the History Office. | Tuesday, January 28 at  9 a.m. or 2 p.m. |
| Understand Scoring: Performance Assessments for Verified Credit in Writing | Webinar aimed at division-level English supervisors and building administrators around the use of Pearson’s Understand Scoring to provide support for the scoring of local performance assessments to verify credit in writing. Collaboration with Assessment Office. | Thursday, January 30 at  9 a.m. or 2 p.m. |
| Co-teaching in the English classroom | Webinar about best practices in the co-taught classroom. Participants will learn strategies to support students in their literacy journey. Collaboration with the Special Education Office. | Tuesday, February 4at  9 a.m. or Thursday, February 6 at 2 p.m. |
| Academic Language- English Learners in the English classroom | Webinar participants will learn strategies to support ALL learners in their English classrooms. Review of academic language and the scaffolding of supports necessary for success in the general classroom. Collaboration with English Learner Instruction Specialist. | Tuesday, February 18 at 2 p.m. or Thursday, February 20 at 9 a.m. |
| PALS: How to use reports to inform instructional decisions in your school | Participants will learn how to interact with the data available in order to make instructional decisions for their classrooms, grade level, and schools. | Tuesday, February 11 at  9 a.m. or Thursday, February 13 at 2 p.m. |
| Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Integrating the English standards into other content areas | Participants will review strategies for incorporating reading in the content areas with specific attention to performance tasks in upper elementary and middle school content classrooms. | Tuesday, February 11 at  2 p.m. or Thursday, February 13at 9 a.m. |

We invite you and your team to take advantage of these webinars as a strategic resource for improving outcomes for ALL learners through proven best practices. We look forward to the experiences and ideas your participation will bring to the series.

For more information, please contact Jill Nogueras, English Coordinator, by email at [Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jill.nogueras@doe.virginia.gov).

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