# Superintendent’s Memo #026-20

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: February 7, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

SUBJECT: Review of the World Language Standards of Learning: Initial Comment Period and Nominations for Review Committees

At the January 23, 2020, Board of Education meeting, the Department of Education was authorized to proceed with the K-12 World Language Standards of Learning (SOL) review process. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by March 2021.

An important part of this review process is the solicitation of comments from classroom teachers, administrators, curriculum supervisors, world language educators, and others who have worked with the current Standards. Please inform personnel in your school division that comments regarding the current standards can be submitted via email to [WLSOL](mailto:WLSOLcomments@doe.virginia.gov) through March 7, 2020. The current Standards are located on the [Virginia Department of Education World Languages SOL website](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/foreign_language/index.shtml).

The Department of Education is also seeking applications from individuals who are qualified and available to serve on the World Language Standards of Learning Review Team and Steering Committee. The team will be charged with the review of the current SOL and the curriculum framework for American Sign Language. After the initial review, the team will make recommendations for revisions in the three existing groups of Standards: Modern World Languages, alphabetic languages (French, German, Spanish, etc.); Modern World Languages, non-Roman script and character-based languages (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, etc.); and Classical Languages (Latin). The team will draft recommendations for initial standards for Visual Languages (American Sign Language). Nominees should be teachers, principals, administrators, content specialists, or other educators who have knowledge of the content areas and experience with standards development.

Selected team members will be assigned to a specific world language committee and asked to review information related to their content area prior to convening for a three-day committee meeting in the summer of 2020.

Committee members who are not under contract or who take personal leave with a school division will receive an incentive for their participation, and all committee members may receive recertification points, pending the approval of their school division. The Department of Education will cover expenses for mileage, meals, and lodging related to the review process following approved state guidelines.

All individuals who wish to serve on the SOL Review Committees must submit a web-based application through the Instruction Committee Application Processing System (ICAPS). The application will require a professional reference and division approval. The procedure for submitting the web-based application can be located on the [ICAPS website](https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/icaps). Completed applications are due by February 27, 2020.  Committee members will be notified by March 15, 2020. Committee members will be selected based on expertise and experience in the target language and balanced regional representation.

If you have questions about the K-12 World Language Standards of Learning review, please email [Dr. Lisa Harris](mailto:Lisa.Harris@doe.virginia.gov), Specialist for World Languages and International Education, Office of Humanities, or contact her by telephone at (804) 225-3666.

JFL/LAH/jr