# Superintendent’s Memo #089-20

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

DATE: April 3, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Opportunity to Comment on Federal Assessment Waivers and Flexibilities to the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) due to COVID-19

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking input on a waiver to some federal assessment and reporting requirements for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Virginia Department of Education has received initial approval of the [waiver request](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/covid-essa-waiver-to-used.pdf) and is seeking public input. The proposed waiver will waive the following federal requirements for the 2019-20 school year and 2020-2021 reporting year.

* Section 1111(b)(2) – requires states to administer reading and mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 8 annually and once in grades 9 through 12. Science assessments must be administered at least once in elementary, middle, and high school.
* Section 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(C)-(D) – requires states to annually, meaningfully differentiate all public schools for comprehensive support and improvement, targeted support and improvement, and additional targeted support and improvement.
* Section 1111(h) – requires states to annually release a state report card containing data on student assessments, school quality or student success indicators, and progress towards meeting long-term goals and measures of interim progress.

The Department welcomes comments on this waiver request. Comments may be submitted electronically by Monday, May 11, 2020, to [Accountability@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Accountability@doe.virginia.gov).

Questions regarding Virginia’s ESSA State Plan may be submitted to [Accountability@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Accountability@doe.virginia.gov).

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