Superintendent’s Memo #043-19

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

DATE: February 15, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

**SUBJECT: Update to Online Calculator Use in Standards of Learning Mathematics Tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning***

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) announced on June 1, 2018, via [Superintendent’s Memo #144-18](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2018/144-18.shtml), that online calculators from [Desmos](https://www.desmos.com/testing/virginia) would be available to students within the secure online test delivery software, TestNav, when taking certain online Standards of Learning mathematics assessments. The memo announced that the addition of Desmos Virginia calculators would occur in the online tests measuring the 2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning beginning with the spring 2019 test administration. Specific Desmos calculators will be included in the Standards of Learning mathematics assessments as follows:

* Grades 4 and 5 mathematics assessments will include the [Desmos Virginia Four Function Calculator](https://www.desmos.com/testing/virginia/fourfunction) on the section of the test in which a calculator is allowed.
* Grades 6 and 7 mathematics assessments will include the [Desmos Virginia Scientific Calculator](https://www.desmos.com/testing/virginia/scientific) on the section of the test in which a calculator is allowed.
* Grade 8 mathematics assessments will include the [Desmos Virginia Scientific Calculator](https://www.desmos.com/testing/virginia/scientific).
* End-of-Course Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II assessments based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will include the [Desmos Virginia Graphing Calculator](https://www.desmos.com/testing/virginia/graphing).

Initially, the VDOE’s transition plan for the implementation of the Desmos Virginia Calculators in the new online mathematics assessments included an expectation that students would use only the Desmos Virginia calculators during SOL test administrations beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Based on feedback from school divisions, however, the VDOE is extending the transition period to the Desmos Virginia Calculators through the 2020-2021 school year.

As a result, school divisions will be permitted to continue to provide one of the hand-held calculators on the list of [Approved Calculators for the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/mathematics/calculators/approved-calculators-sol-tests.docx) through the Summer 2021 test administration to students taking the online version of the mathematics tests based on the 2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning.

Additional details regarding the transition to Desmos within the Standards of Learning mathematics assessments will be provided to school divisions through the Division Directors of Testing and the VDOE Mathematics Contacts. The VDOE will continue to consider feedback as decisions are made regarding calculators and Standards of Learning test administrations beyond the Summer 2021 test administration.

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

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