



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: June 1, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: Online Calculator in Revised Mathematics Standards of Learning Tests Beginning in Spring 2019

As stated in [Superintendent's Memo No. 244-16](#), the Virginia Board of Education adopted the Revised 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* on September 22, 2016, with full implementation of the revised standards to occur in the 2018-2019 school year. Subsequent memos, [Superintendent's Memo No. 284-17](#) and [Superintendent's Memo No. 043-18](#), indicated the revised Standards of Learning assessments measuring the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will be administered beginning in spring 2019 in grades 3-8 mathematics and End-of-Course (EOC) Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.

Desmos Online Calculator

Beginning with the spring 2019 test administration, the revised Standards of Learning assessments measuring the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* that are administered online will include access to an online calculator from [Desmos](#) ➔ within the secure online test delivery software, TestNav. Desmos provides a number of online calculators that operate on various electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and cell phones. The Desmos calculators that will be integrated in the online assessments measuring the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* are available for public use online at no cost.

The online mathematics assessments and the specific Desmos calculators that will be included beginning in the spring 2019 test administration are as follows:

- Grades 4 and 5 mathematics assessments will include a Desmos four-function calculator on the section of the test in which a calculator is allowed.
- Grades 6 and 7 mathematics assessments will include a Desmos scientific calculator on the section of the test in which a calculator is allowed.
- Grade 8 mathematics assessments will include a Desmos scientific calculator.
- EOC Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II assessments based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will include a Desmos graphing calculator.

To help ensure a successful transition to Desmos online calculators, the 2018-2019 school year will serve as a transition period for school division staff and students to become more familiar with the Desmos four-function, scientific, and graphing calculators. During the spring 2019 test administration, students taking the online version of the mathematics tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will be able to use the Desmos online calculator provided within the online test administration software **and** one of the hand-held calculators on the list of [Approved Calculators for the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments](#). Beginning in 2019-2020, students taking the online version of the mathematics tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will be expected to use **only** the Desmos online calculator during their test administration.

Mathematics practice items available in the TestNav online test delivery software will be updated in fall 2018 to provide access to the appropriate Desmos online calculator. School divisions will be notified when this update occurs and are encouraged to begin using Desmos in mathematics instruction.

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.

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