



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: September 21, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Approval of Guidelines for the Use of Local Performance Assessments to Verify Credits in Writing

The 2017 Standards of Accreditation (SOA) at 8VAC20-131-110 B5 permit local school divisions to award a verified credit in writing to a student who “meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit in English (writing) by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment, that complies with guidelines adopted by the board.” On September 20, 2018, the Virginia Board of Education approved [Guidelines for the Use of Local Performance Assessments to Verify Credits in Writing](#) in response to this requirement.

As noted in the guidelines, school divisions will be required to notify the Virginia Department of Education on an annual basis if they will use local performance assessments to verify credits in writing. A form to collect this information will be sent to the designated Division Director of Testing in each school division.

Questions about the guidelines should be addressed to the student assessment staff at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-2102. Questions or comments about the sample assessment tasks or the draft common rubric referenced in the guidelines should be addressed to Jill Noguerras, English Coordinator, at jill.noguerras@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-3696

JFL/SLR/sw