



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: August 17, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP) Discontinued

Previously students with disabilities who participated in the Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP) were counted as non-participants for the purposes of federal accountability. However, based on feedback from the United States Department of Education (USED) during the peer review process of Virginia's assessment system used for federal accountability, this policy will no longer be permitted. Instead, students who previously participated in VSEP will now be required to take the Standards of Learning tests or, if appropriate, participate in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) to meet federal accountability requirements. In response to this feedback, VSEP will no longer be available to students beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

To provide students who previously participated in VSEP with additional opportunities to earn verified credits, Virginia Department of Education staff has developed a proposal to expand the available credit accommodations. This proposal, which would allow students who have earned a scaled score below 375 on a Standards of Learning test and met certain other criteria to earn a verified credit, was presented to the Board of Education on first review at its meeting on July 26, 2018. For more information about the proposal, see Item F at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2018/07-jul/agenda.shtml>.

More specific information about the expansion of available credit accommodations will be provided as it becomes available. Questions about the expanded credit accommodations should be addressed to Jeff Phenicie, Director of Special Education Program Improvement, at Jeff.Phenicie@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 786-0308. Questions about the status of VSEP should be addressed to the student assessment staff at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-2102.

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