



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: October 16, 2023

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: House Bill 585 Work Group Recommendations**

As you are aware, the [House Bill 585 Work Group](#) has been meeting throughout this year under a charge from the General Assembly to recommend changes to the statewide summative assessments and develop a plan for implementation of the revised assessments.

The Work Group included leaders from across Virginia and experts in assessment, including two superintendents who ensured that school divisions' perspectives were considered in the group's deliberations.

The full Recommendations from the House Bill 585 Work Group can be found [here](#).

The Work Group's recommendations focused on five opportunities for the Commonwealth to strengthen its assessment system, including:

- clearer and more rigorous Standards of Learning
- more rigorous assessment items
- more timely, clear, and actionable reporting
- improved system coherence to ensure measurement of proficiency and student growth
- innovative assessment design and plan for future innovation

I encourage you to review the Work Group's recommendations and please share any thoughts or recommendations you have as we move forward together on our commitment to increasing expectations so that Virginia's education system is the strongest in the nation and ensures every student is prepared for post-secondary opportunities and long-term success in life.