



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

December 9, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS)-Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Alternative Assessment Workshop - January 18, 2017

The Virginia Association of School Superintendents and the Virginia Department of Education are providing Virginia teachers and administrators with a hands-on workshop to critique and review performance-based assessments (PBA's). The workshop will be conducted by Jay McTighe and Chris Gareis at the Short Pump Hilton Hotel on January 18. During the workshop, the presenters will:

- introduce a quality-control protocol for reviewing and revising PBA's and then guide participants working collaboratively in small groups through the use of the protocol as they review and critique sample PBA's;
- present practical processes for developing and refining scoring rubrics associated with PBA's – several common problems in rubrics will be highlighted with tips for avoiding these; and
- provide feedback to participants as they work with educators from other school divisions to apply the protocol to review and revise sample PBA's and/or PBA's which they have developed in their local school divisions.

In addition, Virginia Department of Education staff will share the current status and future direction of the state's alternative assessment initiative including ideas on how schools and divisions will be held accountable for results.

Please share this information and the workshop registration link with your teachers and administrators:

<http://www.vassonline.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=284>

SRS/SMC/jm