



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

July 18, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Summer Standards of Learning Test Administration

Recently the student assessment staff has received a number of questions regarding school division requirements as they relate to the summer Standards of Learning (SOL) test administration. Please be advised that school divisions are required to provide students with the opportunity to earn verified credits at every available test administration. While students' and parents' decisions to retake tests needed for verified credit are on a voluntary basis, the requirement to offer the opportunity for students to take the test is not. School divisions that do not have the personnel or resources to independently offer summer testing opportunities are encouraged to partner with neighboring divisions.

In addition, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff have received reports that some school divisions are not testing students at the conclusion of the course in which the students are enrolled during summer school. As stated in the [Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](#), "each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction" (p. 8). Failure to account for a student enrolled in a summer school course requiring an SOL test is a testing irregularity and must be reported to the VDOE.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the student assessment staff at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

SRS/SLR/cb