



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 29, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) Workshops on the State Guidelines for Local Assessments and Developing Performance Assessments

The Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) is offering a workshop on **September 23, 2014**, at the **Richmond Downtown Marriott** for division superintendents and their staff members, as well as for school board members, on "Implementing the New Local Assessment Guidelines" – see [Attachment A](#).

The new state guidelines for local assessments will be approved at the September 18 Virginia Board of Education meeting and will go into effect immediately. The Virginia Department of Education officials, assessment experts, and school divisions modeling best practices will be featured in this full-day workshop to help participants understand the new guidelines and how they can be implemented in their school divisions.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants should have a thorough knowledge of the guidelines, alternative assessments, how some Virginia school divisions have successfully developed and implemented alternative assessments, and valuable resources that will help divisions to meet the new guidelines.

Please share this memo and information with your staff members and your school board members.

For more information and online registration, visit the VASS Web site: www.vassonline.org, or click on this link: <http://vassonline.org/domain/111>.

In addition, VASCD is offering a full-day workshop on **September 24** at the **College of William & Mary** for teachers on "Building and Using High Quality Classroom Performance Assessment." This workshop will complement the VASS workshop by helping participants understand how to construct local alternative assessments. The attached flier, [Attachment B](#), will provide more information on how to register for the September 24 workshop. Please share this with your building level administrators and teachers.
SRS/eh

Attachments:

- A. [Agenda - Implementing the New Local Assessment Guidelines](#) (PDF)
- B. [Flier – Implementing the New Local Assessment Guidelines](#) (PDF)

