



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

October 10, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Local Alternative Assessment Guidelines Approved by the Board of Education

Legislation in the 2014 General Assembly amended [§ 22.1-253.13:3.C](#) of the *Code of Virginia* to eliminate several Standards of Learning (SOL) tests:

- Grade 3 History,
- Grade 3 Science,
- Grade 5 Writing,
- United States History to 1865, and
- United States History: 1865 to the Present.

The legislation also requires each local school board to annually certify that it has provided instruction and administered an alternative assessment, consistent with Virginia Board of Education guidelines, to students in grades three through eight in each SOL subject area in which the SOL assessment was eliminated. The Virginia Board of Education approved guidelines for the local alternative assessments on September 18, 2014. The approved guidelines may be found at [Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2014-2015 Developed in Response to 2014 Acts of Assembly Approved by the Virginia Board of Education on September 18, 2014](#).

If you have questions, please contact the student assessment staff by phone at (804) 225-2102 or by e-mail at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/SLR/cb