



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

January 11, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Nominations for Standard Setting Committees for the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST) in Reading

The Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST) for grades 3-8 reading and End-of-Course (EOC) Reading are being administered for the first time in spring 2013. The VMAST is an alternate assessment designed for students with disabilities identified under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEIA), who are instructed in grade level content, but are not likely to achieve proficiency in the same time frame as their non-disabled peers. The new VMAST reading assessments will provide eligible students access to online tests measuring the 2010 *Reading Standards of Learning* (SOL) that include research-based supports identified by Virginia educators.

The Virginia Department of Education is accepting nominations for standard setting committees for the VMAST reading tests. Standard setting is necessary to develop cut score recommendations for these new reading assessments that reflect students' achievement status. These recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Education, which will then decide the cut scores for *fail/basic* (grades 3-8) and *pass/proficient* and *pass/advanced* (EOC Reading) status. Committee meetings will be held at the Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center in Richmond, Virginia, on March 5-7, 2013, for:

- Grade 3 Reading
- Grade 4 Reading
- Grade 5 Reading
- Grade 6 Reading
- Grade 7 Reading
- Grade 8 Reading
- EOC Reading

The Grade 8 Reading committee will also continue to meet on March 7, 2012, to make cut score recommendations for the Modified Standard Diploma for the grade 8 Standards of Learning Reading test.

Approximately 20 teachers will be selected to serve on each of the seven committees. School divisions are encouraged to nominate a representative for each committee.

Committee members will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- instructional training and experience in the reading content area;
- in-depth knowledge of the *Reading SOL*;
- instructional experience with students who have disabilities; and
- balanced regional representation.

Committee members will be provided the following:

- reimbursement for meals and travel expenses in accordance with state travel policy and guidelines;
- lodging; and
- attendance certificate for recertification points (pending local approval).

School divisions will be reimbursed for substitute teacher pay at a rate of \$75 per day.

All nominees who wish to serve on the VMAST reading standard setting committees must complete the Web-based application using the Assessment Committee Application Processing System (ACAPS). The Web-based application process requires a professional reference and division-level approval. Procedures for submitting the Web-based application are available at <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/acaps/>. Completed applications should be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education using ACAPS by February 8, 2013.

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

PIW/cd