



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

January 17, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Passing Score Adopted by the Board of Education for the New End-of-Course Reading Test Based on the 2010 Standards of Learning**

On January 10, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education adopted passing scores for the new end-of-course (EOC) reading test that measures the 2010 Standards of Learning (SOL). New “cut scores,” which are expressed in the number of items a student must answer correctly to achieve a certain level of proficiency, were adopted for the achievement levels of *pass/proficient* and *advanced/college path*. A student obtaining the proficiency level of advanced/college path on the end-of-course reading test should have the necessary knowledge and skills for enrollment, without remediation, in an introductory credit-bearing college course with a heavy reading load.

The cut scores for the new end-of-course reading test are shown below:

Test	Pass/Proficient	Advanced/College Path
End-of-Course Reading	31 out of 55	49 out of 55

These cut scores have been communicated to Pearson, Virginia’s testing contractor, so that the work necessary to implement these cut scores and report the results of the new end-of-course reading test administered in fall 2012 can begin. Student level results for the new reading test administered in fall 2012 should be available no later than mid-February 2013. It is important to remember that the cut scores listed above apply only to the test form that was reviewed by the standard setting committee. Other forms of the end-of-course reading test will be statistically equated to the “standard setting” test form to ensure that the same level of achievement is required of all students taking a test for a particular course. As a result of the equating process, the number of items a student is required to answer correctly for a particular level may fluctuate slightly.

In addition, please note that these passing scores are applicable only to the new end-of-course reading test that measures the full implementation of the 2010 English content standards. Students who passed an English course associated with the end-of-course reading test before fall 2012 and who are now retaking the test for verified credit will continue to take the test that measures the 2002 English Standards. The cut scores on this test are unaffected by the Board’s action.

If you have questions, please contact the student assessment staff at [Student\\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2102.

