



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 22, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Nominations for the Standards of Learning (SOL) and the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) Reading Assessments Alignment Review Committees

Guidance from the United States Department of Education regarding assessments used to meet the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) stipulates that states must conduct studies documenting the alignment of statewide assessments with the state content standards. To meet this requirement, the Virginia Department of Education is convening committees of Virginia educators to review Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST) based on the 2010 English SOL to determine the degree of alignment of assessments and standards. The reading assessments alignment review committee meetings will be conducted August 5, 2013, in Richmond, Virginia. Registration for the committee meetings will open at 8 a.m. with the meetings commencing at 8:30 a.m. and concluding by 5:30 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking nominations for membership on the SOL and VMAST reading assessments alignment review committees as follows:

- Grades 3, 4, and 5 Reading SOL tests
- Grades 6 and 7 Reading SOL tests
- Grade 8 and End-of-Course (EOC) Reading SOL tests
- Grades 3, 4, and 5 Reading VMAST
- Grades 6 and 7 Reading VMAST
- Grade 8 and EOC Reading VMAST

Approximately twelve educators will be selected to serve on each of the committees listed above, and school divisions are encouraged to nominate one representative for each committee.

Committee members will be chosen according to the following criteria:

- instructional training and experience in the reading content area;
- in-depth knowledge of the 2010 English SOL;
- instructional experience with students who have disabilities and/or students with limited English proficiency;
- experience with the VMAST; and
- balanced regional representation.

Committee members will be provided the following:

- reimbursement for meals and travel expenses in accordance with state travel policy and procedures;
- lodging;
- honorarium of \$125 per meeting day for committee members not under contract with a school division at the time of meetings; and
- attendance certificate for recertification points (pending local approval).

All individuals who wish to serve on the 2013 SOL and VMAST Reading Assessments Alignment Review Committees, including those who have previously served on other committees, must submit an online application through the Assessment Committee Application Processing System (ACAPS). The application will require a professional reference and division approval. The procedure for submitting the online application is available at <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/acaps/>. Completed applications are due to the Virginia Department of Education by May 3, 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.

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