



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 29, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Cut Scores Adopted by the Board of Education for Grades 3-8 New Reading Tests Based on the 2010 Standards of Learning

On March 28, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education adopted cut scores for grades 3-8 new reading tests that measure 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 *fail/basic*, *pass/proficient* and *pass/advanced*.

The cut scores for each of grades 3-8 new reading tests are shown below:

Test	Fail/Basic	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
Grade 3 Reading	13 out of 40	25 out of 40	35 out of 40
Grade 4 Reading	12 out of 40	25 out of 40	35 out of 40
Grade 5 Reading	11 out of 40	25 out of 40	35 out of 40
Grade 6 Reading	14 out of 45	28 out of 45	40 out of 45
Grade 7 Reading	14 out of 45	28 out of 45	40 out of 45
Grade 8 Reading	14 out of 45	28 out of 45	40 out of 45

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 grades 3-8 new reading tests administered in spring 2013

can begin. 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 grades 3-8 reading tests 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 grade level. 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.

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

PIW/SLR/aw