



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 5, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Nominations for the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) Reading and Science 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 Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) Assessments based on the *2010 English and Science Standards of Learning (SOL)* to determine the degree of alignment of assessments and standards. The alignment review committee meetings will be conducted October 8, 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 VGLA reading and science assessments alignment review committees as follows:

- Grades 3-4 Reading
- Grades 5-6 Reading
- Grades 7-8 Reading
- Grade 3 Science
- Grade 5 Science
- Grade 8 Science

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 content areas of reading or science;
- in-depth knowledge of the 2010 English and/or science SOL;
- instructional experience with students who have disabilities and/or students with limited English proficiency;
- experience with the VGLA assessment for grades 3-8 reading and grades 3, 5, and 8 science; 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).

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

All individuals who wish to serve on the 2013 VGLA Reading and Science 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 June 7, 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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