



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

April 26, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Cut Scores Adopted by the Board of Education for the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) for Grades 3-8 and End-of-Course (EOC) Reading Tests Based on the 2010 English Standards of Learning**

On April 25, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education adopted cut scores for the grades 3-8 and end-of-course (EOC) VMAST reading tests. The VMAST is an alternate assessment in which research-based supports and simplifications are applied to existing online test items to make them more accessible to eligible students with disabilities who are instructed in grade level content but are not likely to achieve proficiency in the same time frame as their non-disabled peers. 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 for grades 3-8 reading. Cut scores were also adopted for the achievement level pass/proficient and pass/advanced on the EOC VMAST reading test.

The passing scores for each of the grades 3-8 and EOC reading tests are shown below:

Test	Fail/Basic	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
Grade 3 Reading	7 out of 32	19 out of 32	28 out of 32
Grade 4 Reading	8 out of 32	19 out of 32	28 out of 32
Grade 5 Reading	8 out of 32	19 out of 32	28 out of 32
Grade 6 Reading	10 out of 36	21 out of 36	32 out of 36
Grade 7 Reading	10 out of 36	22 out of 36	32 out of 36

Grade 8 Reading	10 out of 36	22 out of 36	31 out of 36
End-of Course	n/a	24 out of 44	38 out of 44

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 grades 3-8 and EOC reading VMAST 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 and EOC VMAST 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 proficiency level may fluctuate slightly.

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.

PIW/SLR/cb