



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

May 17, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia is for Lovers of Summer Learning!

The Virginia Department of Education has developed a Web page and flyer with ideas for summer learning that may be shared with parents or students as the school year ends. Research shows that children who read for pleasure and explore new things in the summer do better and forget less when they go back to school in the fall.

The activities included in "[Virginia is for Lovers of Summer Learning!](#)" provide engaging ideas to help students continue learning over the summer, not only in reading, but in other subjects, too. They include fun things to do using educational Web sites developed by a number of established organizations such as the Library of Virginia, the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), the Smithsonian Institution, the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, and MetaMetrics, the company that provides the [Lexile](#) and [Quantile](#) scores on students' Standards of Learning (SOL) test score reports. Quantile scores will be available on student reports this spring, and Lexiles will be added next spring, after the second administration of the new English SOL tests.

The flyer, which may be printed or copied front and back, is available on the Web site in [English](#), and the Spanish version will be available next week. Additionally, there are [bookmarks](#) containing the Web site link that can be printed and shared with students for their summer reading. We hope teachers will be able to provide students with other ways to discover new things over the summer to demonstrate that Virginia really is for lovers of summer learning!

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Christine Harris, director of humanities and early childhood, at Christine.Harris@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2880.

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