



#184-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #184-21**

DATE: July 9, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Update on Calculator Use in Standards of Learning Mathematics Tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning***

As stated previously in [Superintendent's Memo #144-18](#) and [Superintendent's Memo #043-19](#), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) partnered with Desmos and Pearson to have versions of the [Desmos Virginia Calculators](#) available to students within the secure online test delivery software, TestNav, when taking certain online Standards of Learning (SOL) mathematics assessments beginning with the spring 2019 test administration.

Previously, the VDOE communicated the expectation that students would use only the Desmos Virginia Calculators during SOL test administrations beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Based on feedback from school divisions, however, the VDOE is adding a final year to the transition period to the Desmos Virginia Calculators. Through the summer of the 2021-2022 school year, school divisions may continue to provide one of the approved hand-held calculators to students taking the online version of the mathematics tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*. School divisions should refer to the list of [Approved Calculators for the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments](#) (Word) for hand-held calculators that are approved for use during SOL assessments.

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, students will use the provided Desmos Virginia Calculator within the TestNav application during an online SOL test. Hand-held calculators

will only be used by students completing a paper test or students with disabilities with an accommodation that requires the use of a hand-held calculator. This change to using only Desmos Virginia Calculators in online SOL tests will allow the elimination of separate sections in which a calculator is allowed and not allowed in online mathematics tests. Beginning with fall 2022 SOL test administrations, the appropriate online calculator will appear only on those test items where it may be used. This change will also reduce test administration errors where incorrect calculators have been provided to students during testing.

The online Desmos Virginia Calculators are free to use and are available from the various app stores. Downloading the Desmos Virginia Calculator app enables students to access a specific Desmos Virginia Calculator without having an Internet connection. Information regarding how to access the Desmos Virginia Calculators via the app stores is found on the [Desmos Test Mode webpage](#). For information on how the Desmos Virginia Calculators differ from the Standard Desmos Calculators, view the [Desmos Virginia Information document](#) (PDF).

For more information

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

JFL/SLR/tm