Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #196-21

DATE: July 23, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: **Updates to the *Understand Scoring* Application**

The [Understand Scoring](#) application has been reset in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. All user accounts, scores on practice sets, and verification sets have been removed. Teachers from Virginia public school divisions must use the keyword "Virginia" to create a new user account. As a reminder, practice sets and verification sets, with the exception of the Local HS section, are available to guest users, but scores will not be saved.

Additionally, *Understand Scoring* has been updated to include the "reset" functionality for Grade 5 Verification Sets. This enhancement is available to users who log in to the application and is not available to guest users. After completing either of the available Grade 5 Verification Sets, users who have logged in may start over by clicking the Reset Verification Set(s) button. This button will not become activated until at least one verification set is completed. Clicking this button will remove previous scores from the Scoring Summary table. Users will then be able to attempt the verification set(s) again.

As background, *Understand Scoring* is an online application that provides educators with information about Virginia's writing assessments, including the rubrics and anchor papers that illustrate each score point on the two domains in Virginia's scoring rubric: Composing/Written Expression and Usage/Mechanics. These domains are used to score the short-paper component of the Grade 8 Writing and End-of-Course Writing Standards of Learning tests, the local

performance assessments used to verify credits in writing, and the local alternative assessments administered in Grade 5 Writing.

Understand Scoring users will be able to score papers in multiple practice sets and verification sets and view scoring based on Virginia's two-domain scoring rubric. Teachers will gain a better understanding of the writing assessments, understand how to apply the rubrics when scoring student writing, and develop consistency in scoring papers written by Virginia students.

Teachers may also use *Understand Scoring* with students to facilitate their understanding of the expectations in both domains. The guest user functionality available in the application allows students to access the system without having to create an account or save information.

For more information

For further information about *Understand Scoring,* please contact the Office of Student Assessment at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102, or Jill Nogueras, Coordinator of English, Office of Humanities, at Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/SLR/tm