# Superintendent’s Memo #044-19

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: February 15, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Passing Scores Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education for the New End-of-Course Mathematics Tests Based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*

On January 24, 2019, the Virginia Board of Education (Board) adopted passing scores for the new end-of-course (EOC) mathematics tests that measure the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*. Based on the Board’s action, students will have to achieve a scaled score of at least 400 to earn a performance level of *pass/proficient* and a scaled score of at least 500 to achieve a performance level of *pass/advanced* on the EOC Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II Standards of Learning tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*. These scaled scores are equivalent to the following number of items correct on the test forms reviewed by the educator committees convened to recommend passing scores to the Board:

* Algebra I: 20 of 45 items for *pass/proficient* and 40 of 45 items for *pass/advanced*
* Geometry: 20 of 45 items for *pass/proficient* and 40 of 45 items for *pass/advanced*
* Algebra II: 24 of 45 items for *pass/proficient* and 40 of 45 items for *pass/advanced*

It is important to remember that the number of items correct listed above applies only to the versions of the tests that were reviewed by the educator committees convened for standard setting. Other forms of the EOC mathematics 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 course. As a result of the equating process, the number of items a student is required to answer correctly to be considered *pass/proficient* or *pass/advanced* on a particular version of the test may fluctuate slightly. However, the requirement to earn a scaled score of at least 400 for a performance level of *pass/proficient* and a scaled score of at least 500 for a performance level of *pass/advanced* is applicable to all versions of the EOC mathematics tests.

Also, please note that the number of items correct listed above applies only to the new EOC mathematics tests that measure the full implementation of the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*. The EOC mathematics tests that measure the 2009 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will continue to be administered to students who earned a standard credit in a mathematics course before spring 2019 and who are now retaking the associated EOC mathematics test to earn a verified credit.

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.

JFL/SLR/sw