



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: January 19, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
**SUBJECT: K-12 History and Social Science Standards of Learning Institutes
Professional Development Resources**

The Virginia Department of Education has provided targeted professional development through a series of four K-12 History and Social Science Standards of Learning (SOL) Institutes. The K-12 History and Social Science SOL Institutes provided training that utilized a train-the-trainer model to provide professional development focused on the 2015 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*, which will lead to the creation of performance assessments. The Institutes used various information sources to provide participants with experiences to change history and social science instruction. In each content session, teachers were provided explicit examples as an opportunity to deepen student understanding of history and social science content.

Each of the Institutes began with a general session that included information on the Instructional Journey from Learning Experiences and Performance Tasks to Local Alternative Assessments. The Application Session included a presentation on Using the Quality Criteria Tool to design and develop History and Social Science Local Alternative Assessments. Concurrent course content sessions, facilitated by regional teachers, were focused on Planning and Preparing Instruction for Local Alternative Assessments.

Supporting professional development resources, including PowerPoint presentations associated with each K-12 History and Social Science SOL Institute, are available online on the [History and Social Science Standards of Learning Institutes Webpage](#) and school divisions are encouraged to utilize the professional development resources to improve student achievement through quality instruction.

Questions regarding the K-12 History and Social Science SOL Institutes or associated professional development resources should be directed to Christonya Brown, History and Social Science Coordinator, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2893; or Betsy Barton, Elementary History and Social Science Specialist, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454; or Jill Noguera, English and History Specialist, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3696.

SMC/CB/vdg