# Superintendent’s Memo #249-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 18, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Update on New Standards of Learning Tests in Reading and History and Social Science

As communicated via [Superintendent’s Memo No. 017-18](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2018/017-18.shtml) and [Superintendent’s Memo No. 067-19](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/067-19.docx), new assessments measuring the 2017 *English Standards of Learning (SOL)* and the 2015 *History and Social Science SOL* were to be administered in spring 2020. Due to the school closures in spring 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new tests were not administered. The implementation of these tests has been rescheduled.

The table below indicates which standards will be assessed in reading and history and social science during the Fall 2020 Non-Writing Test Administration and the Spring 2021 Non-Writing Test Administration.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject and Test Name** | **Fall 2020Administration** | **Spring 2021 Administration** |
| **Reading** |   |   |
| End of Course (EOC) Reading | 2010 Standards1 | 2017 Standards |
| Grade 6-8 Reading | 2010 Standards1 | 2017 Standards |
| Grade 3-5 Reading | Tests not offered in the fall | 2017 Standards |
| **Content Specific History** |   |   |
| Civics & Economics | 2010 Standards2 | 2015 Standards |
| Virginia Studies | Test not offered in the fall | 2015 Standards |
| **History/Social Science** |   |   |
| EOC Virginia & U.S. History | 2015 Standards | 2015 Standards |
| EOC World History I | 2008 Standards | 2008 Standards |
| EOC World History II | 2008 Standards | 2008 Standards |
| EOC World Geography | 2008 Standards | 2008 Standards |

1 At this time the Virginia Board of Education has not yet adopted the “cut scores” for the new reading tests based on the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*. The Board is expected to take action prior to the spring 2021 administration of the SOL reading tests.

2 Because the number of students who typically take the Civics and Economics test in the fall is very small, the new Civics and Economics Test based on *the 2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning* will not be administered until spring 2021.

New test blueprints are available [online](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml) for the Grades 3 through 8 and EOC Reading tests to support the implementation of the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*, and new test blueprints are available [online](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml) for the three new history tests to support the implementation of the 2015 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*.

Practice test questions are available [online](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8.shtml) for each reading test (grades 3 through 8 and EOC) and each of the new history/social science tests (Virginia Studies, Civics & Economics, and Virginia & U.S. History). These practice questions provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of test questions that will be administered as part of the new tests.

Guided practice suggestions accompany these practice test items to provide specific guidance for teachers or other adults to lead students through the questions. This guidance may also be found on the [TestNav 8 Practice Items](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8.shtml) web page.

If you have any questions, please contact the student assessment staff by email at Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-2102.

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