



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: October 12, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Resources for the New Mathematics Tests Assessing the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*

As stated in [Superintendent's Memorandum #043-18](#), dated March 2, 2018, implementation of the new mathematics tests based on the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* (SOL) will begin with the spring 2019 administration for the end-of-course (EOC) mathematics tests (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II) and grades 3 through 8 mathematics tests. This memo introduces resources for the new mathematics tests.

New Test Blueprints

Test blueprints for the new mathematics tests have been developed and are posted on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) [Mathematics 2016](#) web page. The blueprints indicate the reporting categories for each test, the number of test items in each reporting category, and the number of field test items per test.

New Formula Sheets and Table of Standard Normal Probabilities

Formula sheets for grades 6 through 8 and EOC mathematics have been developed for use with the new SOL tests and are posted on the VDOE [Ancillary Test Materials](#) web page. These formula sheets will be available to students when completing the new mathematics tests beginning in spring 2019. Teachers should incorporate these new formula sheets into their instruction in 2018-19 and beyond.

The table of Standard Normal Probabilities (z-table) will be available to students when completing the new Algebra II SOL test beginning in spring 2019. The z-table is posted on the VDOE [Ancillary Test Materials](#) web page.

SOL Practice Items

An updated practice item set is available for each new mathematics SOL test. These practice items provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of test questions that will be administered to assess the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*.

Practice items must be accessed via the installable TestNav 8 application. See the [TestNav 8 Technical Assistance Document](#) (PDF) for information on the system requirements to access TestNav 8, along with instructions for downloading the [TestNav 8 application](#). 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 be found on the VDOE [TestNav 8 SOL Practice Items](#) webpage.

As stated in [Superintendent's Memo #144-18](#), the revised SOL assessments measuring the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* that are administered online beginning in spring 2019 will include access to an online calculator from [Desmos](#) within TestNav 8. Each mathematics practice item set has been updated to provide access to the appropriate Desmos online calculator.

Audio SOL Practice Items

Audio versions of the new mathematics practice item sets have been updated to reflect the change in how this accommodation will be delivered in online versions of the new mathematics tests. For students assigned an online audio version of the new mathematics test beginning in spring 2019, the audio accommodation will be delivered through text-to-speech audio tools. These tools vary from the traditional audio player found in other online audio tests. The audio versions of the new mathematics practice items will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the function of these audio tools. Guidance on using the online text-to-speech audio tools may be found in the Guided Practice Suggestions on the VDOE [TestNav8 SOL Practice Items](#) webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact the student assessment staff by email at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-225-2101.

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