



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: September 14, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Implementation of New Standards of Learning Reading Test Blueprints based on the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*

As stated in [Superintendent's Memo No. 020-17](#) and [Superintendent's Memo No. 017-18](#), the Virginia Board of Education adopted the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* on January 26, 2017, and adopted the 2017 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* on November 16, 2017. [Superintendent's Memo No. 017-18](#) also indicated that full implementation of the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* will occur in the 2019-2020 school year.

The reading assessments measuring the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* will be administered for the first time in the spring 2020 test administration in grades 3 through 8 and end-of-course (EOC). To support preparation for implementation of the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*, the new reading test blueprints are available at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml.

Field Testing in Spring 2019

The revised reading test blueprints are shared at this time to accommodate curriculum development and instructional planning. It is imperative that all school division staff understand that the new blueprints are not effective until spring 2020; however, school divisions should begin teaching new content from the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* in the 2018-2019 school year, as field-test items in spring 2019 will include new content from the 2017 English standards.

Practice Opportunities for Students

Practice test questions will be available in spring 2019 for each reading test (grades 3 through 8 and EOC). These practice questions will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of test questions that will be administered as part of the new reading tests. To reflect the removal of stand-alone items from the Grades 3-8 Reading Standards of Learning tests, stand-alone practice items will not be included.

Practice questions 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 will accompany the practice test questions to provide specific guidance for teachers or other adults to lead students through these items. School divisions will be notified when these practice items become available in spring 2019.

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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