



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

February 3, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Additional Reduction of Test Items on the Grade 5 Reading Standards of Learning Test

Superintendent's memo [#172-16](#) informed school division staff that the grades 3 through 5 reading Standards of Learning (SOL) tests would be administered in a computer adaptive test (CAT) format beginning in the spring 2017 test administration. The online computer adaptive versions of the tests will be shorter than the traditional versions of the grades 3 through 5 reading tests.

After completing additional evaluations of the item bank, it was determined that the computer adaptive version of the grade 5 reading SOL test will have an additional reduction in the number of test items that count in a student's overall score. The previously released grade 5 reading [SOL Test Blueprint](#) indicated that students completing the computer adaptive version of the test would be administered 30 operational test items that count toward the student's score. The computer adaptive version of the grade 5 reading SOL test will now include 28 operational test items. The SOL Test Blueprint has been revised to reflect this change. The number of field test items will remain the same at five items.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to student assessment staff at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

SRS/SLR/aw