



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

January 8, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Practice Technology-Enhanced Items and Practice Item Guides for History Standards of Learning Tests

In spring 2016, the Standards of Learning (SOL) history tests will contain multiple choice and technology-enhanced field test items that assess the current *2008 History & Social Science Standards of Learning*. In spring 2017, the SOL history tests will contain multiple choice and technology-enhanced field test items that assess the revised *2015 History & Social Science Standards of Learning*. In order to support student preparation for technology-enhanced items (TEI) that may appear on history assessments, sets of practice items have been developed and will be delivered via electronic Practice Assessment Tools (ePAT).

The Virginia Studies and Civics & Economics practice ePAT each contain 5 TEI. There is one end-of-course (EOC) ePAT that contains 10 TEI. The EOC ePAT contains items representative of content from World History to 1500, World History: 1500 to the Present, World Geography, and Virginia and United States History. Each history ePAT will be available in the existing TestNav 7 delivery system and all history SOL tests will be administered in TestNav 7 during the spring 2016 test administration.

The practice TEI will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of TEI that will be administered on SOL history assessments. A practice item guide has been developed for each ePat that may be used by teachers or other adults to guide students through the practice TEI. While the use of the guide with the ePat is not required, it is strongly encouraged.

The sets of practice items and guides are posted on the Virginia Department of Education [Web site](#). Please note that the practice TEI are examples only. They do not cover all history content for each course.

Should you have any questions, please contact student assessment staff by e-mail at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-2102.

SRS/SLR/cb