



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 11, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Review of the Science Standards of Learning and Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework

The Virginia Board of Education has authorized the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to proceed with the *Science Standards of Learning* and the *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* review process. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by January 2018.

An important part of the review process for the *Science Standards of Learning* and the *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* is the formal solicitation of comments from teachers, administrators, curriculum supervisors, science educators, science education organizations, and other members of the public. Please inform personnel in your school division and other stakeholders that they are encouraged to provide comments on the current standards and framework. Information regarding the timeline, including the e-mail address for submitting public comments, may be found at the [Science Standards of Learning Review Web site](#). The Science@doe.virginia.gov e-mail address will be open to receive comments from March 11, 2016 to April 18, 2016. However, additional public comments may be shared with the VDOE staff throughout the review process using the same e-mail address.

The VDOE is also seeking individuals who are qualified and available to serve on a committee to make recommendations on both the *Science Standards of Learning* and the *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* during the summer of 2016. Applicants must be teachers, principals, administrators, content specialists, or other educators who have expertise with the science content areas and the standards.

Individuals who are interested in serving on the *Science Standards of Learning* review committee must submit an electronic application through the Web-based process, [Instruction Committee Application Processing System \(ICAPS\)](#). The application requires a professional reference and school division approval. Completed applications are due to the VDOE through ICAPS by April 18, 2016. Committee members will be selected on the basis of science content and teaching expertise, experience, and balanced regional representation. Applicants will be notified of their selection status by May 6, 2016.

Selected team members will be assigned to a specific grade-level or science subject subcommittee and asked to review information related to their committees prior to convening for a four-day committee meeting during the summer of 2016. The review committee meeting will be held July 12-15, 2016, in the Richmond area.

Committee members who are not under contract or who take personal leave with a school division will receive an incentive for their participation, and all committee members will be eligible to receive licensure renewal points, pending the approval of their school division. The VDOE will cover expenses for mileage, meals, and lodging related to the review process following approved state guidelines.

If you have questions about the *Science Standards of Learning* and the *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* review, please contact Eric M. Rhoades, director, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-2481.

SRS/EMR/rt

Links:

- [Science Standards of Learning Review Web page](#)
- [2010 Science Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework](#)
- [Instruction Committee Application Processing System \(ICAPS\)](#)