



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

February 8, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Posting of the Grades 5, 8, and End-of-Course Writing Anchor Papers

In order to provide additional assistance to school division staff in preparing for the spring 2013 Standards of Learning (SOL) writing test administration, writing anchor papers based on the 2010 English SOL have been posted on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Web site for the grades 5, 8, and end-of-course (EOC) writing tests. Anchor papers are scored student papers that are used to demonstrate the scoring rubrics used with the short paper component of the SOL writing test. These writing samples provide specific evidence of how students are scored on the *composing/written expression* and *usage/mechanics* domains of the writing test. Each anchor paper contains an annotation or explanation which supports the assigned score. The anchor papers with annotations are located on the VDOE Web site at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/2010/online_writing/index.shtml.

If you have questions, please contact the student assessment staff at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

PIW/SLR/aw