



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

October 18, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Nominations for the 2014 Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) Reading Item Review Committees**

The Office of Test Administration, Scoring, and Reporting is accepting nominations for the 2014 VMAST Reading Item Review Committees. The VMAST is an alternate assessment designed for students with disabilities who are instructed in grade level content, but are not likely to achieve proficiency in the same time frame as their nondisabled peers. The VMAST provides eligible students with disabilities access to online assessments in reading that include research-based supports and simplifications identified by Virginia educators.

The purpose of the committees is to review reading items proposed for use in the spring 2014 administration. Approximately 12 members will be selected to serve on each of the four committees.

The committee meetings will be conducted on January 15, 2014, at the Hilton Richmond Hotel located at 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23233 as follows:

- VMAST Grades 3-4 Reading
- VMAST Grades 5-6 Reading
- VMAST Grades 7-8 Reading
- VMAST End-of-Course Reading

Committee members will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- grade-level experience(s) and reading content-area expertise;
- in-depth knowledge of the *Reading Standards of Learning* (SOL);
- instructional/supervisory experience with students who have disabilities; and
- balanced regional representation.

Members selected for the 2014 VMAST Reading Item Review Committees will be expected to:

- sign a Non-disclosure/Conflict of Interest Agreement; and
- review supports and simplifications for content and grade-level appropriateness.

Committee members will be provided the following:

- reimbursement for meals and travel expenses in accordance with state travel policy and guidelines;
- lodging; and
- attendance certificate for recertification points (pending local approval).

School divisions will be reimbursed for substitute teacher pay at a rate of \$75 per day.

All nominees must submit an application through the Web-based Assessment Committee Application Processing System (ACAPS). The Web-based application process requires a professional reference and division-level approval. Procedures for submitting the application are available at <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/acaps/>.

Completed applications should be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education using ACAPS by November 22, 2013.

If you have questions, please contact the student assessment staff by e-mail at [student\\_assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-2102.

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