Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #160-22

DATE:	July 29, 2022
TO:	Division Superintendents
FROM:	Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT:	**Updates to the *Understand Scoring* Application**

The *Understand Scoring* application has been reset in preparation for the 2022-2023 school year. All user accounts, previous scores on practice sets, and verification sets have been removed. Teachers from Virginia public school divisions must use the keyword "Virginia" to create a new user account. As a reminder, practice sets and verification sets, with the exception of the Local HS section, are available to guest users, but scores will not be saved.

As background information, *Understand Scoring* is an online application that provides information about Virginia's writing assessments, including the rubrics and anchor papers that illustrate each score point on the two domains in Virginia's scoring rubric: Composing/Written Expression and Usage and Mechanics. These domains are used to score the short-paper component of the Grade 8 Writing and End-of-Course (EOC) Writing Standards of Learning tests, the local performance assessments used to verify credits in writing, and the local alternative assessments administered in Grade 5 Writing.

Understand Scoring users will be able to score papers in multiple practice sets and verification sets and view scoring based on Virginia's two-domain scoring rubric. Through this process, teachers gain a better understanding of Virginia's writing assessments, understand how to apply the rubrics when scoring student writing, and develop consistency in scoring papers written by Virginia students. School divisions using local performance assessments to

verify credits in writing are required to use the Local HS section in *Understand Scoring* for annual training and qualification of scorers. Scorers of local alternative assessments in Grade 5 Writing are encouraged to train and qualify as well.

The Reset Verification Set(s) button appears below the Scoring Summary table within each section in *Understand Scoring*. This reset functionality is available to registered users who have logged in but not to guest users. In the sections for Grade 5, Grade 8, and EOC, the Reset Verification Set(s) button will not become activated until at least one verification set is completed. In the Local HS section, the Reset Verification Set(s) button will not become activated until both sets have been completed without a passing score.

Students and parents may also use *Understand Scoring* to better understand the expectations in both domains of the scoring rubric. The guest user functionality available in the application allows students to access the system without having to create an account or save information.

For more information

For further information about *Understand Scoring* or division-level access to management reports from *Understand Scoring*, please contact the Office of Student Assessment at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102, or Jill Nogueras, Coordinator of English, Office of Humanities, at Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov.

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