



#234-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #234-22**

DATE: September 30, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Nominations for Standard Setting Committees for the Science Standards of Learning Tests Based on the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning***

The Office of Student Assessment is accepting nominations for standard setting committees for the Science Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. Standard setting is necessary because of the implementation of new science tests in spring 2023 based on the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning*.

The committee meetings will be held at the Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center, Glen Allen, Virginia, as follows:

November 1-3, 2022

- Grade 5 Science
- Grade 8 Science
- End-of-Course Biology

The standard setting committees are responsible for recommending cut scores that not only reflect students' achievement status, but promote high expectations for all students in the Commonwealth. The recommendations developed by the committee will ultimately be considered by the Virginia Board of Education as part of a broader, comprehensive process for establishing the cut scores for pass/proficient and pass/advanced status.

Committee members selected for the standard setting committees will be expected to use provided technology, such as a laptop computer, sign a Non-Disclosure/Conflict of Interest Agreement, and be present for the entire first two days of the meetings. Some committee members will be asked to attend a third day of the standard setting process and will be notified of this request ahead of time. School divisions are encouraged to nominate a representative for each committee.

Committee members will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Instructional training and experience in the science content area;
- In-depth knowledge of the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning*;
- Instructional/supervisory experience with students of varied learning styles, abilities, and aptitudes, including students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency; and
- Balanced regional representation.

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.

School division leaders are invited to nominate elementary school teachers who teach grade 4 or 5, middle school science teachers, and Biology teachers from their school division to serve on each of the standard setting committees. Nominations of teachers available to serve as panelists [are to be submitted by school division personnel in the online nomination form](#) no later than **Friday, October 7, 2022**.

Committee members may not use membership on a committee or information gained through the review process to write test items, author or co-author textbooks or professional journals, or any such publications related to the Virginia SOL for personal financial gain or for the financial gain of any organization.

For more information

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

JB/SLR/ss