



**#084-21**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Education  
Superintendent's Memo #084-21**

DATE: April 2, 2021  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Opportunity to Comment on Virginia's Request for a Waiver from Certain Mathematics Requirements of the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA)**

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking input on a waiver request from certain statutory requirements under the [Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 \(ESSA\)](#) (PDF). If granted, the waiver request would allow students below Grade 8 who are enrolled in advanced mathematics courses to take the mathematics test that is aligned with their mathematics course of study instead of the grade-level mathematics test for the grade in which they are enrolled.

Under Section 1111(b)(2)(B)(i)(I) of ESSA, all students in Grades 3 through 8 must take the state-approved mathematics test that is administered for the grade in which they are enrolled. Limited exceptions to this requirement include a provision that allows states to administer an end-of-course mathematics test instead of the grade-level test to eighth grade students who are enrolled in a high school level mathematics course.

Virginia was permitted under a previous waiver to ESSA to administer mathematics tests to students below Grade 8 who were enrolled in accelerated mathematics courses without "double testing," as those students were exempted from also taking the mathematics test given at their grade level. This waiver was approved in August 2018 for the school years 2017-

2018 through 2020-2021. This updated waiver, if granted, would allow this practice to continue. All students will be required to take an end-of-course mathematics test while enrolled in high school to meet the assessment participation requirement under ESSA. In the case where a student takes all three end-of-course mathematics assessments prior to high school, they will be required to take either the AP Calculus, ACT, SAT, or IB mathematics assessment for this purpose.

The Virginia Department of Education welcomes comments on this waiver request. Comments may be submitted electronically by **Friday, April 30, 2021**, to [Accountability@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Accountability@doe.virginia.gov).

### For more information

Questions regarding [Virginia's ESSA State Plan](#) (DOCX) may be submitted to [Accountability@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Accountability@doe.virginia.gov).

JFL/JAM/as