

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2120  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-2120

TESTING MEMO NO.1198

March 24, 2015

TO: Division Directors of Testing  
Directors of Special Education

FROM: Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent  
Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement

John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent  
Division of Special Education and Student Services

SUBJECT: Administering Local Alternative Assessments to Students Placed in Public or  
Private Institutions or Other Care Facilities

On October 10, 2014, Superintendent's Memo #278-14 was sent to school divisions notifying them of the Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments approved by the Virginia Board of Education. These guidelines identified the five Standards of Learning (SOL) tests eliminated by the 2014 General Assembly. The five SOL tests eliminated by the General Assembly include:

- Grade 3 History/Social Science
- Grade 3 Science
- Grade 5 Writing
- U.S. History I (United States History to 1865)
- U.S. History II (United States History: 1865 to the Present)

Additionally, the guidelines identified the legislative requirement for “each local school board to annually certify that it has provided instruction and administered an alternative assessment, consistent with Virginia Board of Education guidelines, to students in grades three through eight in each SOL subject area in which the SOL assessment was eliminated.”

This requirement includes those students served in public or private institutions or other care facilities who are the responsibility of local school divisions. School divisions are encouraged to work with outplacement facilities serving their students to determine what local alternative assessments will be administered. These assessments do not have to be the same local alternative assessments administered by the school division; however, they must meet the same criteria detailed in the *Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2014-2015*.

The local school division superintendent will determine what documentation certifying that the alternative assessments have been administered will be required from the placements. These

placements will retain copies of the assessments given as well as any ancillary materials locally in accordance with the *Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2014-2015*.

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

SLR/cd