

Virginia Department of Education Report

May 2010

- The revised English Standards of Learning were approved by the Virginia Board of Education on January 14, 2010. A “clean” copy is posted at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/review.shtml

Full implementation is expected in 2012-2013.

- A committee of educators is meeting July 15-16 in Richmond to write the Curriculum Framework. The CF should go to the BOE for first review early this fall.
- Major changes include:
 - Emphasis on vertical alignment 4-12
 - Addition of media literacy to Communication strand
 - Addition of research strand beginning in grade 4
 - Addition of specific vocabulary strand in high school
 - Addition of 21st century skills
 - Beginning in grade 4, Oral Language strand becomes Communication: speaking, listening, and media literacy
 - Use of authentic texts in teaching vocabulary
 - Requires use of roots and affixes in teaching vocabulary
 - Reading strand is divided into fiction and nonfiction
 - American, British and world literature may be taught in any order 10-12
 - Emphasis on functional(applications) and information reading
 - Writing strand introduces persuasive writing in grade 5
 - Thesis statements begin in grade 6
 - Composing and revising/editing standards in the writing strand
 - Argumentative writing emphasized in grade 11
 - Analytical and persuasive writing emphasized in grade 12
 - MLA/APA documentation of sources begins in grade 8
 - Evaluation of sources is emphasized in all grades
 - Emphasis on understanding plagiarism and ethical/legal guidelines for gathering and using information
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in partnership with Achieve, ACT, and the College Board. Governors and state commissioners of education from across the country committed to

joining a state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. The first step of this initiative developed college- and career-readiness standards followed by K-12 standards. K-12 Standards are available at:

<http://www.corestandards.org/Standards/K12/> By grade 12, the SOL and CCSS have covered the same skills, though not the same order; however, there are some major differences:

- Research and media literacy are strands in SOL, not in CCSS
 - No recommended texts in SOL; text exemplars in CCSS
 - Persuasive writing begins in grade 5 in SOL; CCSS begins persuasive writing in grade 2
 - Informational text in English SOL; CCSS has literacy content standards for science and social studies
 - Writing as a process in SOL; writing types in CCSS
 - Both college and career ready
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- Poetry Out Loud details at: <http://poetryoutloud.org/>
 - VDOE is working on a College Readiness initiative with Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). An English capstone course will be developed to assist those students who would be enrolled in remedial work in community colleges. This course will be reading and writing intensive. Virginia Community Colleges and State Council for Higher Education in Virginia are also partners in this initiative.
 - Assessment content committee members have been approved and notified.
 - Virginia English Language Arts Supervisors met April 23 at the Virginia Foundation for Humanities in Charlottesville with more than 47 in attendance. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities folks were very gracious hosts. Susan Coleman discussed the Letters About Literature Program, provided copies of materials for the *A Lesson Before Dying's* Big Read, and gave copies of "American Accents" from the Virginia Festival of the Book. Matthew Gibson gave a wonderful presentation on Encyclopedia Virginia. I urge you to use all the resources that the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, available at: <http://www.virginiafoundation.org/> Encyclopedia Virginia is available at: www.encyclopediavirginia.org A special thanks to Chuck Miller who offered an overview of the VATE conference and provided door prizes. The next meeting will be at the VATE conference this fall.
 - From Vision to Practice Institute: Seven Million Minutes from Prekindergarten to Graduation will be held at Holiday Inn Select Koger South Conference Center, in Richmond, on July 13-15, 2010. I will be chairing Erin Gruwell's session. Erin is the founder of *Freedom Writers Foundation*. Additional details can be found at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2010/101-10.shtml The Institute will include a planning session to provide the opportunity for every school division team to develop a plan for increasing the graduation rate. The recommended attendees for the Institute are: 1) administrators; 2) principals; 3) teachers; 4) school counselors; 5) pupil service personnel, or others who provide support to students in the area of high school completion.

**Spring 2011
Standards of Learning Assessments
Non-Writing Tests for Grades 3 through 8**

Option	Testing Period	Answer Document Ship Date
1	04/11/2011 – 05/06/2011	05/06/2011
2	05/02/2011 – 05/27/2011	05/27/2011
3	05/16/2011 – 06/10/2011	06/10/2011

**2010-2011
Standards of Learning Assessments
English: Writing Testing Schedule**

Administration	Grade	Testing Period	Answer Document Ship Date
Fall 2010 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice	8 and End-of-Course	10/18/2010 or 10/19/2010	11/05/2010
Short Paper		10/20/2010	
Spring 2011 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice	5, 8, and End-of-Course	03/07/2011 or 03/08/2011	03/25/2011
Short Paper		03/09/2011	
Summer 2011 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice	End-of-Course	07/18/2011 or 07/19/2011	07/29/2011
Short Paper		07/20/2011	