

VATE Virginia Department of Education Report December 2, 2006

- Assessment Content/Bias Committees recruited. Superintendent's Memo # 245 & 246 from November 17. Stipend is \$100 per day for those not under contract (Supervisors). Please announce to teachers.  
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2006/inf246.html>

Content Review Committees will be expected to:

- serve a one-year term;
  - sign a Non-Disclosure/Conflict of Interest Agreement;
  - participate in committee meetings scheduled by the Virginia Department of Education;
  - review the SOL test forms for alignment with the test blueprints;
  - examine test items to confirm a match with the SOL; review test items for appropriateness and fairness;
  - examine field test data for potential test items; and
  - recommend whether items are to be included in the test item bank.
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- SAT I Writing recommended for a substitute test for EOC writing. Standard setting for this test takes place December 12.
  - The Office of Academic Initiatives at the College Board has produced 20 Outstanding SAT Essays. Teachers are invited to use this free publication, with reproductions of original handwritten essays along with commentary and an index, to assist them in teaching their students to write effectively. The publication showcases the best writing students are doing on the SAT Reasoning Test(TM). Each top-scoring essay addresses the same essay prompt, but the similarities end there. The essays reflect the wide range of points of view, types of evidence, organizational strategies, and writing styles used by high-scoring students. To order free copies of 20 Outstanding SAT Essays, please contact College Board Customer Service at (212) 713-8165.
  - Middle School English Specialist Position Posted. We hope to fill this early second semester. Flyer attached.
  - Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum Essay Contest. Flyer attached.
  - Middle School Writing Contest. Announced in Superintendent's Memo # 234, October 27, 2006. The Virginia Middle School Association would like to invite each middle school to submit entries for both contests. A school may send two entries per grade level per contest. Additional entry requirements for each contest and the cover letter to be completed and affixed to each submitted entry can be found on the VMSA Web site at <http://vmsa.org/ann.htm>. A regional committee

will select two works of visual arts and writing from each grade level (6-8) to compete at the Virginia State Middle School Association Conference.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2006/inf234.html>

- Creating Strategic Readers Workshop. Announced in Superintendent's Memo # 242, November 9, 2006. The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce two regional, one-day professional development opportunities, "Creating Strategic Readers," conducted by Valerie Ellery. Valerie Ellery is a curriculum specialist, elementary classroom teacher, and author. Participants at this event will learn and practice research-proven strategies and techniques for developing competency in the five essential components of reading instruction, as identified by the National Reading Panel. This professional development opportunity is designed for teachers of kindergarten through grade five in elementary schools that are not fully accredited in English or schools that did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading for the 2006–2007 school year. Reading First schools are also invited to send participants. For more information, contact Ginna Glover, elementary English specialist [Ginna.Glover@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Ginna.Glover@doe.virginia.gov)
- Public Hearings on the Proposed Revisions to Board of Education Regulations: Proposed Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia and the Proposed Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel. The Virginia Board of Education will hold public hearings to solicit comments on the proposed revisions to the two regulations referenced above. Below are the dates and locations of the public hearings:

December 5, 2006:

Blacksburg Middle School Auditorium

3109 Price's Fork Rd.

Blacksburg, VA 24060

(540) 951-5800

<http://www.mcps.org/bms>

Time: 7:00 PM

December 5, 2006:

Robinson Secondary School Recital Hall

5035 Sideburn Rd

Fairfax, VA 22032

(703) 426-2100

<http://www.fcps.edu/RobinsonSS>

Time: 7:00 PM

December 7, 2006:  
Hampton High School Auditorium  
1491 West Queen Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
(757) 825-4430  
<http://www.otaylor@sbo.hampton.k12.va.us>  
Time: 7:00 PM

Registration of speakers will begin 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the hearing. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak and should bring copies of their comments for the Board.

Additionally, comments may be sent via mail, fax, or e-mail until December 15, 2006, to Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver, director of teacher education, or e-mail to: [JoAnne.Carver@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:JoAnne.Carver@doe.virginia.gov); or Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, director of licensure, or e-mail to: [licenseregulations@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:licenseregulations@doe.virginia.gov). Mailing address: Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218; Fax: 804/786-6759.

To view the proposed revisions to the approved program regulations, please see: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA\\_Board/Meetings/2006/ItemE-jun.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA_Board/Meetings/2006/ItemE-jun.pdf)  
To view the proposed revisions to the licensure regulations, please see: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA\\_Board/Meetings/2006/ItemF-jun.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA_Board/Meetings/2006/ItemF-jun.pdf)  
If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure at (804) 371-2522, or contact Dr. Carver at (804) 371-2475, or e-mail to: [JoAnne.Carver@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:JoAnne.Carver@doe.virginia.gov), or Mrs. Pitts at (804) 371-2471, or e-mail to: [Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov).

- Guidelines for Read-aloud Accommodations posted. Superintendent's Memo # 235 October 27, 2006.  
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2006/inf235.html>
- Proposed changes to Standards of Quality- The big news here is that an addition to the proposed SOQ is for one reading specialist for every 1000 students in K-12. Cost \$39.3 million. If approved by the Board, will go the General Assembly for approval and funding. It is a long process, but it is a start! Full text of proposals found at:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA\\_Board/Meetings/2006/ItemB-nov.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA_Board/Meetings/2006/ItemB-nov.pdf)