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**EARLY INTERVENTION READING INITIATIVE**

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**Proposal Requirements for Use of a Local Diagnostic Screening Instrument**

School divisions have the option to select an alternate diagnostic screening instrument other than the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) instrument to meet the requirements of the Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI). Divisions that elect to use a local diagnostic screening instrument for EIRI purposes must submit a proposal to be approved by the Department of Education. The selected assessment may not consist of components pieced together from multiple sources. If a school division chooses to use an assessment other than the PALS, the following information must be submitted for approval:

- the locally developed or selected instrument with a cover sheet including the school division's name, superintendent's signature, and appropriate contact information;
- documentation that the request for use of a local diagnostic screening instrument has been approved by the local school board;
- documentation of alignment with the Virginia Standards of Learning;
- documentation of alignment with the PALS;
- evidence that the diagnostic criteria are similar to the criteria used in the PALS to diagnose reading difficulties;
- evidence that the student outcomes from the diagnostic screening assessment are comparable to the student outcomes of the PALS;
- evidence that the assessment is free of linguistic and cultural bias;
- documentation that the assessment adheres to psychometric guidelines for reliability and validity recommended by the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME);
- a written plan of how the division will provide professional development for teachers in the administration of the assessment; and
- a written plan of how the division will report assessment results to the PALS office according to the same data submission timelines as those using PALS. Student Testing Identifiers must be included for each student screened with PALS.

School divisions that wish to submit a locally developed or selected EIRI assessment for consideration for use in 2010-2011 by the Department of Education must submit the required documentation by Friday, May 21, 2010, to:

Thomas Santangelo  
Reading Coordinator  
Office of Elementary Instructional Services  
Virginia Department of Education  
P. O. Box 2120  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120  
Fax: (804) 786-1703

If you have questions, please contact Thomas Santangelo at [Thomas.Santangelo@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Thomas.Santangelo@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-3203.