

THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
Professional Development Workshop
For Which Local Alternative Assessment Grant Money Can Be Used

Building a Robust Curriculum and Assessment System Around Authentic Performance Tasks

Presented by: JAY McTIGHE
March 6, 2015 * The Hotel Roanoke



JAY McTIGHE brings a wealth of experience developed during a rich and varied career in education. He served as director of the Maryland Assessment Consortium, a state collaboration of school districts working together to develop and share formative performance assessments. Prior to this position, Jay was involved with school improvement projects at the Maryland State Department of Education where he helped lead Maryland's standards-based reforms, including the development of performance-based statewide assessments. Jay has an extensive background in professional development and has conducted workshops in 47 states within the United States, in 7 Canadian provinces, and internationally to educators in 31 countries on six continents.

How do we prepare students to be truly ready for Colleges and Careers? How do we equip today's learners for a rapidly changing world where information is accessible on a smart phone? How do we engage kids in learning the Standards in meaningful ways?

Practicing for multiple-choice tests is not the answer. Indeed, many of the most important learning goals – the ability to analyze issues, engage in respectful debate, problem solving, extended writing, scientific and historical investigations, creative expression in the visual and performing arts – are falling through the cracks because they are not measured on standardized tests. Moreover, a focus on "multiple-choice" teaching comes at the expense of more engaging and relevant learning experiences and is dis-spiriting to many teachers and boring to students as noted by the HSSE studies and related student surveys.

The recent Legislative amendment to the Virginia School Code requires School Divisions to develop and implement "authentic performance assessments and portfolios with rubrics" while encouraging "integrated assessments that include multiple subject areas." This ruling not only opens the door to alternative assessments. It enables the reconceptualization of a Standards-based curriculum.

This workshop will explore an essential question: How might we build a robust curriculum and assessment system around rich performance tasks that call for learners to apply their learning of content to authentic situations? Jay McTighe will share practical and proven ideas, examples and resources for constructing such a curriculum.

In addition to enhancing the learning of academic standards, such a curriculum provides a means of concurrently developing the "21st century skills" of 4Cs – critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration – needed for success in school and in life.



Audience: Curriculum Specialists & Division Leaders
Registration Fee: \$175 (invoiced after event)
More Information and Online Registration:
www.vassonline.org