

Guidelines for Local Authentic Assessments to be Developed in Response to 2014 Legislation

Discussion Questions

Virginia Board of Education Accountability
Committee

May 21, 2014

Full text of legislation is found at
[http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-
bin/legp604.exe?141+ful+CHAP0585](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+ful+CHAP0585)



Requirements for Local School Divisions

“Each school board shall annually certify that it has provided instruction and administered an alternative assessment, consistent with Board guidelines, to students in grades three through eight in each Standards of Learning subject area in which a Standards of Learning assessment was not administered during the school year...”

Requirements for Local School Divisions (continued)

“Such guidelines shall (1) incorporate options for age-appropriate, authentic performance assessments and portfolios with rubrics and other methodologies designed to ensure that students are making adequate academic progress in the subject area and that the Standards of Learning content is being taught; (2) permit and encourage integrated assessments that include multiple subject areas; and (3) emphasize collaboration between teachers to administer and substantiate the assessments and the professional development of teachers to enable them to make the best use of alternative assessments.”

Development of Guidelines for Local Assessments: Questions for Consideration

- How will school divisions certify that local assessments measure the SOL?
- Must the local assessments include all SOL for that subject?

Development of Guidelines for Local Assessments:

Questions for Consideration

- Must local assessments include “authentic performance assessments” or may they include primarily multiple-choice or technology-enhanced items?
- What is the definition of “authentic performance assessments”?
- Must the same assessment be used across a division or may decisions about assessments be made at the school level?

Development of Guidelines for Local Assessments:

Questions for Consideration

- Must local assessments provide a summative measure of student achievement or will interim assessments administered throughout the year be sufficient?
- Will the guidelines allow for group work? If so, will there will be guidance as to how the contribution of individual students will be captured?

Development of Guidelines for Local Assessments:

Questions for Consideration

- If performance tasks are used,
 - will students be permitted to attempt the same task again if they are unsuccessful on the first attempt?
 - will it be permissible to use the same tasks from year to year or will it be necessary to develop new tasks?
- If integrated assessments are used, will the requirements be different?

Development of Guidelines for Local Assessments:

Questions for Consideration

- What professional development must be provided to teachers?
- What support will be provided to small school divisions?
- How will “adequate academic progress” be defined?

Development of Guidelines for Local Assessments: Issues for Consideration

- IDEA requires that alternate assessments be provided for students who are unable to participate in the regular district assessment.
- How will school divisions ensure that this requirement is addressed?