

Virginia's Assessment Innovators, Part 2:
Authentic, Alternative, Performance-Based,
and International Assessments in
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Virginia Board of Education
Committee on School and Division Accountability
January 21, 2015

Dr. Don Robertson
Assistant Superintendent
Department of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability

Dr. Brian Matney
Principal
Landstown High School, Governor's STEM and Technology Academy
Virginia Beach City Public Schools



Performance Assessment in VBCPS

The History of -

- *Compass to 2015* - “A Strategic Plan for Student Success”
- Balanced Assessment
- College and Work Readiness Assessment
- Integrated Performance Task
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Test for Schools - based on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
- Next Steps

Compass to 2015

A Strategic Plan for Student Success

- One Goal - "... 95 percent or more of VBCPS students will graduate having **mastered the skills** that they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens."
- Four Categories of Student Outcomes -
 - Academically proficient;
 - Effective communicators and collaborators;
 - Globally aware, independent, responsible learners and citizens; and
 - Critical and creative thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers.
- Five Strategic Objectives -
 - SO2: "VBCPS will develop and implement a balanced assessment system that **accurately reflects student demonstration** and mastery of VBCPS outcomes for student success."





Balanced Assessment

What Do We Mean?

➤ Basis and Support

- SO₁ - “All teachers will **engage** every student in **meaningful, authentic and rigorous** work through the use of **innovative instructional practices** and supportive technologies that will motivate students to be self-directed and inquisitive learners.”

➤ What does balanced assessment look like?

- Standardized, norm-referenced, multiple-choice, problem-based, project-based, and performance-based assessments

➤ Brochure - *A Look at Assessment in VBCPS*

- Assessment, level, purpose of, use

College & Work Readiness Assessment

CWRA Performance Tasks -

- Presents realistic problems and assesses the ability of students to use given information to develop reasonable solutions.
- Requires students to think critically and evaluate information to construct responses that address the questions successfully.

cwra+



College & Work Readiness Assessment

Sample CWRA Performance Task

You are a staff member for an organization that analyzes the accuracy of policy claims made by political candidates. The organization is non-partisan, meaning that it is not influenced by, affiliated with or supportive of any one political party or candidate.

Leila Jainson is running for re-election as the mayor of Stoneville. Mayor Jainson's opponent in this contest is Dr. Carl Greer. Dr. Greer is a member of the Stoneville City Council. During a recent TV interview about cell phone use, Dr. Greer claimed that these phones interfered with people's ability to operate a motorized vehicle and caused vehicle-related accidents in Stoneville. Dr. Greer said that reducing cell phone usage while driving motorized vehicles would lower the city's vehicle-related accident rate. To support this argument, Dr. Greer presented a chart that compared the percentage of drivers who use cell phones while driving to the number of vehicle-related accidents. Dr. Greer based this chart on cell phone use and community data tables that were provided by the Stoneville Police Department and government population counts.

What are the strengths and/or limitations of Dr. Greer's position on this matter? What specific information in Documents A and B led you to this conclusion? What additional information, if any, would you like to have had?



College & Work Readiness Assessment

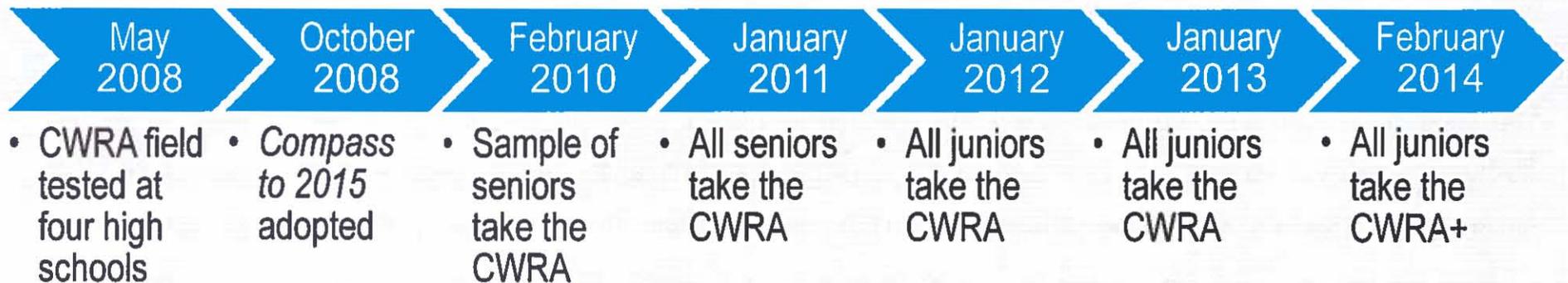
Sample CWRA Response

I cannot agree with Dr. Greer that “reducing cell phone usage while driving motorized vehicles would lower the city’s vehicle-related accident rate.” Dr. Greer’s strategy of looking for root causes of vehicle-related accidents is a good one, but cell phone use while driving may not be the primary cause of vehicular accidents in Stoneville.

The chart he showed in his TV interview (Document B) seems to show that vehicle-related accidents increase along with the percent of registered drivers using cell phones while driving. However, Dr. Greer is either misunderstanding the information he gathered from Document A to create his chart, or he is misleading the public. What his chart (Document B) does not show is the population of each region. Therefore, the chart ends up comparing a number with a percent, which is not meaningful. Dr. Greer is correct in saying that the number of vehicle-related accidents increases with the total number of registered drivers living in each region, but he fails to consider number of accidents per 1,000 drivers. When I look at the tables provided by the police department (Document A), I can see that the number of vehicle-related accidents per 1,000 drivers stays relatively constant regardless of the percentage of drivers using cell phones while operating a motorized vehicle. You would expect the region with 1% cell phone users while driving and the one with 10% to have very different vehicular accident rates, but in fact, they are the same at 8.59. This suggests that reducing cell phone use while driving a motorized vehicle may not affect the vehicular accident rate at all.

CWRA Implementation

Virginia Beach City Public Schools



Integrated Performance Task

Just like the CWRA, the IPT -

- Is challenging and engaging for test takers.
- Involves a decision or choice that the student must make.
- Includes documents with different types of information.
- Is a test worth teaching to.





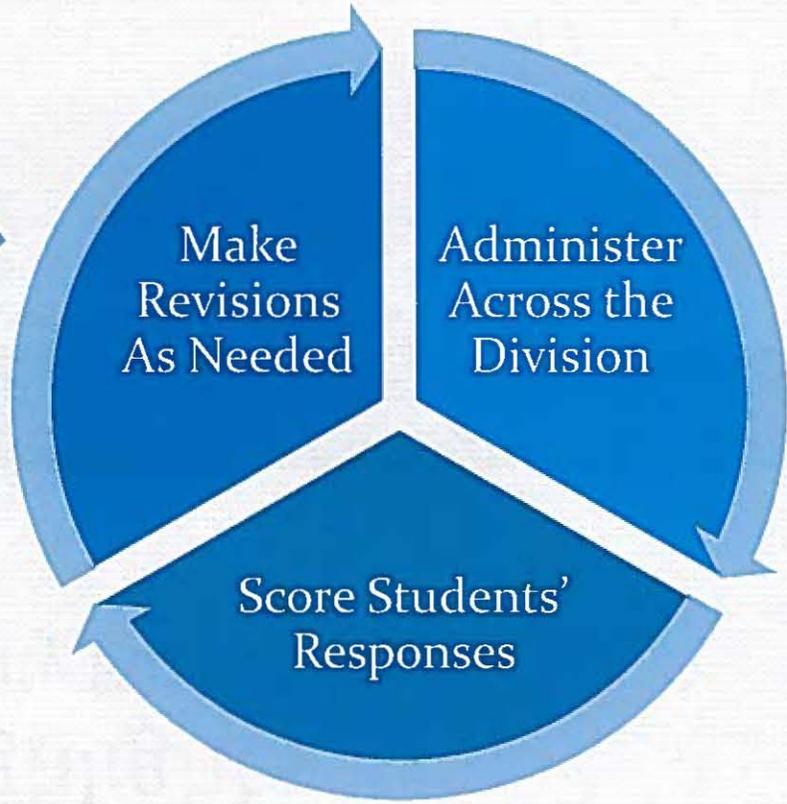
Administration of the IPT

- The IPT is administered twice each school year.
 - Fall Diagnostic IPT
 - Spring Summative IPT
- Students are familiarized with the IPT Rubric.
- Effects of reading ability are minimized.
- Students are given 90 minutes to review the IPT booklet and respond to two prompts.

Evolution of an IPT

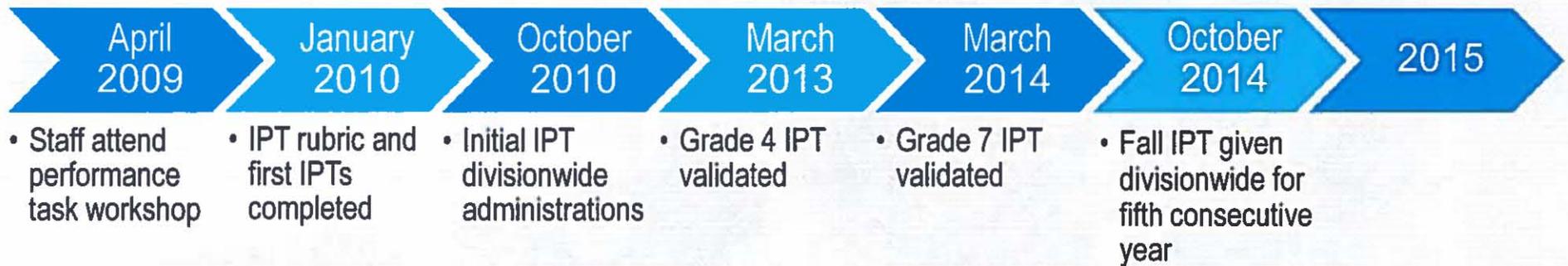
Create Task

Field Test



IPT Highlights

Virginia Beach City Public Schools



Performance Tasks vs. Multiple-Choice

- “Do you like taking this kind of test better than taking multiple-choice tests?”

	Yes (prefer IPT)	No (prefer MC)	Both/No answer
Grade 4 (N = 5,145)	66%	31%	3%
Grade 7 (N = 5,129)	47%	49%	4%

- Sample responses from students who explained their answers:

“Yes, because with this method it would allow me to say why I picked a certain answer of a certain question.” – 4th grader

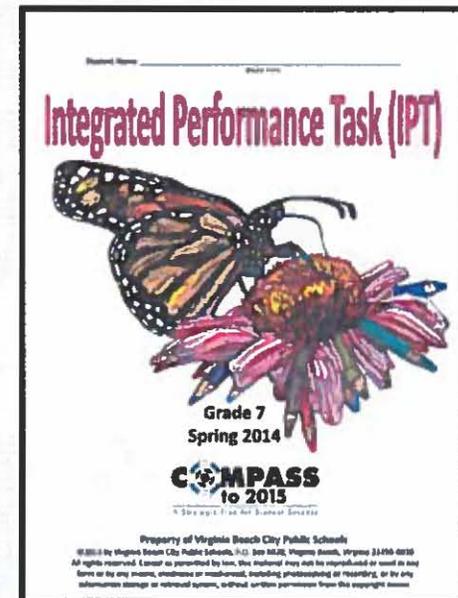
“Yes because this test [IPT] makes you think and that what a test should make you do...THINK” – 7th grader

“No, because when you try to figure out the multiple choice test you can slash the trash, that will make it easier to get the right answer” – 4th grader

“No, I don't for one reason and one reason only to me they [MC] are easier.” – 7th grader

Costs of the IPT

- Total expenses 2013-2014 were \$142,836
 - Task development \$346 (0.2%)
 - Printing costs \$14,978 (10.5%)
 - Summer scoring \$127,513 (89.3%)
- The per-student cost was roughly \$14



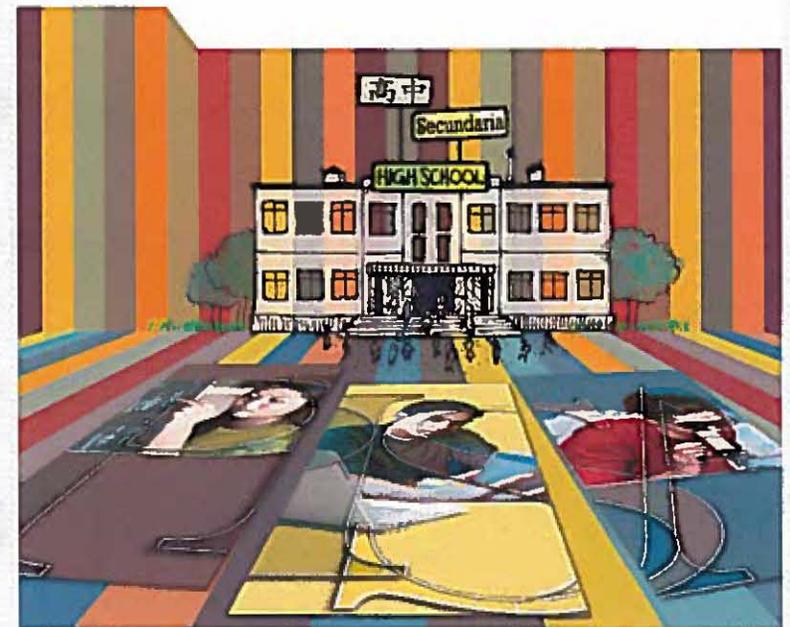
OECD Test for Schools

- Overview
 - Based on PISA
 - School Improvement
 - International Benchmarking
- What It Measures
 - Knowledge and Competencies
 - Reading, Mathematics, and Science
 - Attitudes and Motivations
- SO₂
 - 21st Century Skills
 - Applied Knowledge
 - Deeper Learning



How Your School Compares
Internationally

OECD TEST FOR SCHOOLS (BASED ON PISA)



Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Virginia
United States



OECD Test for Schools

- Sample Test Question Handout Exercise
 - Reading
 - How long does Sarah have to return the warranty card?
 - Ten days
 - What else did Sarah buy while she was in the store?
 - A tripod
 - Mathematics
 - What is Heiko's pace length?
 - $p = 0.5$ meters or 50 centimeters
 - Science
 - Where do these sulfur and nitrogen oxides in the air come from?
 - Car exhausts, factory emissions, burning fossil fuels

OECD Test for Schools

2012

Pilot Phase

- Ocean Lakes High School

2013

Planning

- America Achieves
 - 50% Subsidy Funding
- EdLeader21

2014

Roll Out

- 10 High Schools
- Staff Development
- School Improvement

2015

Future Plans

- Administration for All High Schools

2016



The Future of Performance Assessments in VBCPS

- Response to changes in SOL assessment requirements
- Regional Cooperation in creating performance assessments
- Current plan for performance tasks and assessments
 - ❑ Internal
 - ❑ External

Questions

