



New Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2016 – 2017 through 2018 - 2019

2014 Amendment to Code of Virginia

“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. 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.”

Definition of Authentic Performance Assessment

Performance assessments generally require students to perform a task or create a product that is typically scored using a rubric. Authentic performance assessments often include tasks that mirror those that might occur in a “real-life” situation.

Implementation Timeline Since 2014

- September 2014 - The Board approved Local Alternative Assessment Guidelines developed for 2014 – 2015 school year. Five year plan.
- 2014-2015 & 2015-2016 school years - grants were provided to the eight Superintendent's Regions. The first two years.
- 2015-2016 school year - *Framework for Local Alternative Assessment Implementation*
- March 2016 - Results of the DOE desk audits provided to the Board.
- September 2016 – “Assessing for Deeper Learning: A Transformative Pathway to Prepare Virginia Students for the Future” conference.
- September 2016 - New Local Alternative Assessment Guidelines have been developed based on the experiences of local school divisions in implementing these assessments in 2014-2105 and 2015-2016.

Expectations For Next Three School Years 2016 – 2017, 2017 – 2018, and 2018 – 2019

- 2016 – 2017: Use at least one performance assessment in content area with eliminated SOL assessment
- 2017 – 2018: Share examples of performance assessments across division
- 2018 – 2019: Share with other school divisions and score assessments from other school divisions

Discussion Questions

1. What critical steps should be taken to ensure that the criteria of the 2014 legislation are met?
2. What are the strategies, priorities, issues, root causes, barriers, and potential solutions to meeting the 2014 legislation?
3. Where is your school division or other school divisions in your region with implementing the first two years of the five year LAA plan?
4. What assets are presently available in educational technology and virtual learning to foster the implementation of alternative assessments?
5. What assets are presently available in your region to foster the implementation of alternative assessments?