

Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction

Curriculum Update

December 12, 2019

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Director of Student Learning



Prince William County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Providing A World-Class Education

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Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)

State

- General Assembly, the Governor, Virginia Board of Education, and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)- led by the State Superintendent of Schools.
- Power to determine what students learn about is a power reserved to the state, as it is not an enumerated federal power. (10th Amendment)



Locality

- Local School Boards are charged with delivering the SOLs through their instructional program in accordance w/Virginia Standards of Quality (SOQ) and the Virginia Standards of Accreditation (SOA).
- Implementation of School Board policy is led by the local Superintendent of Schools and carried out by his staff.

Standards of Learning (SOL)

- Standards are developed as outlines
- Outlines are elaborated in “Frameworks”
- Tests are derived from “blueprints” to ensure accountability

Local Curriculum

- Sequence of courses is generally uniform but some variation is permitted
- Local curriculum units of study “unpack” the state curriculum frameworks and:
 - emphasize key concepts/enduring understandings,
 - provide essential questions,
 - identify key content and skills to be acquired and demonstrated
 - articulate what evidence of learning might be used
 - Share peer reviewed resources and lesson activities



Curriculum Changes

- The Standards are revised every 7 years
- There is a cycle of revisions that help localities to schedule their curriculum revision work
- New standards lead to new frameworks, tests, textbooks, and local units of study



The Revision Cycle

- Year 1- New VA standards drafted
- Year 2- New VA standards proposed/Public comment
- Year 3- New VA standards adopted- crosswalk year
- Year 4- New VA standards full implementation w/ tests
- Year 5- New VA textbooks list is developed
- Year 6- Program continues
- Year 7- Program continues



What it looks like from the Classroom

- Teaching established standards & units
- Teaching a blend of old and new-testing old and field testing some new
- Teaching the new and testing the new
- Getting new textbooks to support the new



Current Cycle by Content

- History (2015) is in its third year of full implementation
- Math (2016) is working with new textbooks and is in its second year w full implementation
- English (2017) is in its first year of full implementation of new/revised standards
- Science (2018) is in its “crosswalk year” both 2010 and 2018 standards are taught



Other Content Areas

- Economics & Personal Finance (2009)
- Computer Technology (2013)
- Fine Arts (2013)
- World Languages (2014)
- Health, Physical, and Driver Education (2015)
- Family Life Education (2016)
- Computer Science (2017)



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