

**VDOE Report for VATE
October 2008**

- By state mandate, the *Standards of Learning (SOL)* will be reviewed and revised every seven years. The English SOL will begin the review process in early 2009. The revision process allows for public comment and teacher review committees. The new English Standards should be adopted sometime in 2010. Alignment studies from College Board, ACT, and Achieve's American Diploma Project will be considered during the revision process.
- A new Lexile reading initiative for students in grades 3-8 was announced at the Board of Education meeting on October 23, 2008. Lexile measures will be reported with the scores of students taking SOL reading tests in grades 3-8 next spring. In the meantime, students, parents and teachers can match scores from the 2008 SOL reading tests with corresponding Lexile measures by using a conversion table available on the VDOE Web site. Easy-to-use [calculator and conversion tables](#) may be used to determine a Lexile measure's relationship to a SOL reading score. Beginning with the 2009 SOL assessments, a student's Lexile measure will be included in the student's score report that is sent to parents or guardians by school divisions. Additional information is available at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/sol/lexile/index.shtml , or contact Ginna Glover, elementary reading/English specialist, via e-mail at Ginna.Glover@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-786-1997.
- Superintendent's Memorandum #236 dated September 19, 2008, contains information concerning changes in the registration process for the Virginia Online Reading Tutorial. This year teachers will register themselves and a school or division administrator via the spread sheet. Once they receive a user name and password from the Princeton Review, teachers will set up their own classes, uploading their students using the Student Test Identifier (STI). Again this year, teachers have the ability to create their own tests from a bank of questions aligned to the Standards of Learning. For additional information, please review the Project Graduation Tutorial Web page, available at: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/2plus4in2004/tutorial.shtml> or contact me.
- Superintendent's Memorandum #68 dated March 28, 2008 announces that Virginia is adopted the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards. The goal of the WIDA ELP Standards is to provide the foundation to enable English Language Learners (ELL) to achieve academically in all content areas. Through the state's participation in the WIDA consortium, an optional placement assessment for English Language Learners (ELL), WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test™ (W-APT™), is also available for interested divisions. For additional information, please see: <http://www.wida.us/>
- Superintendent's Memorandum #254 dated October 10, 2008, announces nominees to serve on range finding committees for selection of student work for EOC Virginia Substitute Assessment Program (VSEP) for EOC English: Reading; EOC English: Writing; Grade 8 Literacy. Applications are due by October 30. http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/superintendents_memos/2008/10_oct/inf254.html
- The American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA is looking forward to playing a role in your Shakespeare curriculum planning. You are invited to the Blackfriars Playhouse for

teaching seminars, student matinees, tours, and workshops. If you prefer, their education-artists can come to your school for on-site presentations. 2008-2009 offerings are listed below.

Winter Teacher Seminar

January 17, 2009 – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Spring Teacher Seminar

April 3, 2009 – *The Comedy of Errors*

April 4, 2009 – *Hamlet and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

Now booking for the 2008/09 school year, including performances of *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *Measure for Measure*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet* and *The Comedy of Errors*. Contact Kristie Dillon for more information. 540.885.5588 ext. 12 or Kristie@americanshakespearecenter.com

2008/09 Study Guides will soon be available online. Visit

www.americanshakespearecenter.com for free study guides for current and previous seasons.

Podcasts for American Shakespeare Center shows can be found online at:

<http://americanshakespearecenter.blogspot.com/>

Contact Doreen Bechtol (doreen@americanshakespearecenter.com)

to learn more about the "Shakespeare in the Schools" program.

- The Poe Bicentennial is coming in 2009. Watch for upcoming announcements from The Poe Museum and The Library of Virginia. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.poe200th.com/> Poe Young Writers Competition flyers are available. All submissions are due by May 8, 2009. For additional information, contact Tameka Hobbs, Program and Education Coordinator, at the Library of Virginia, by e-mail at Tameka.hobbs@lva.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-371-2126.
- Virginia's Big Read program is underway; this year's title is Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, a book often appearing on the AP test. The Virginia Center for the Book is distributing free teacher's guides, reader's guides, audio guides, posters, and other resources. For additional information or to request these resources, please visit www.virginiafoundation.org/bookcenter Also recommended are two titles by Mary Lyons for younger readers, *Sorrow's Kitchen: The Life and Folklore of Zora Neale Hurston* (grade 8+), and *Roy Makes a Car* (ages 6-8).

- Assessment Content Committee dates for next year

Grade 3 Reading	Jul 6-9	
Grade 4 Reading	Jul 13-16	
Grade 5 Writing	Jun 22-24	Jul 13-15
Grade 5 Reading	Jun 22-23	Jul 20-22
Grade 6 Reading	Jul 6-7	Jul 20-22
Grade 7 Reading	Jul 13-15	Jul 27-28
Grade 8 Writing	Jul 6-9	Jul 20-23
Grade 8 Reading	Jul 6-8	Jul 27-29
EOC English: Writing	Jun 22-25	Jul 13-16
EOC English: Reading	Jun 22-25	Jul 20-22
EOC English : Bias	Jul 27-30	

- The National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation present **Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest**, in partnership with the Virginia Commission for the Arts and School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community (SPARC). *Poetry Out Loud* is a program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry

through memorization, performance, and competition. From **September 2008 to February 2009**, schools are invited to participate in classroom and school wide contests, advancing to a state competition on **March 5th, 2009** at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. State champions will advance to the National Finals, to take place on April 26 - 28, 2009 in Washington, DC. You must register by November 17th, 2008. All school winners must be named by Feb. 2nd, 2009. For a Teacher's packet or additional information, contact Laine Satterfield: (804) 353-3393 x 227 or Lsatterfield@sparconline.org or visit www.poetryoutloud.org for more information.

- SPARC proudly announces the 20th annual competition for ***New Voices for the Theater***, playwriting competition that provides an exciting opportunity for Virginia students to work closely with professional theater artists during a three-week residency. Students come to Richmond June 21 – July 12 and work to bring their original one-act plays to life on the stage. Scripts must be received by Jan. 15th, 2009. We will notify winners by April 15th. Additional information is available at:
http://www.sparconline.org/programs/programs_newvoices.shtml
- Writing test schedule for next year is posted and is available at:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Assessment/TestingScheduleChart08-09.pdf>

**2008-2009
Standards of Learning Assessments
English: Writing Testing Schedule**

Administration	Grade	Testing Period	Answer Document Ship Date
Fall Semester 2008 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice Direct Writing (main)	8 and End-of-Course	10/20/08 or 10/21/08 10/22/08	11/7/08
Spring Semester 2009 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice Direct Writing (main)	5, 8, and End-of-Course	3/2/09 or 3/3/09 3/4/09	3/20/09
Summer Semester 2009 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice Direct Writing (main)	End-of-Course	7/13/09 or 7/14/09 7/15/09	7/24/09

Spring 2009
Standards of Learning Assessments
Multiple-Choice Tests for Grades 3 through 8

Option	Testing Period	Answer Document Ship Date
1	4/13/09 – 5/8/09	5/8/09
2	5/4/09 – 5/29/09	5/29/09
3	5/18/09 – 6/12/09	6/12/09