



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Senator L. Louise Lucas, Chair
Finance and Appropriations
General Assembly Building, Room 1404
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Senator Barbara A. Favola, Chair
Senate Education and Health
General Assembly Building, Room 509
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Delegate Luke E. Torian, Chair
House Appropriations
General Assembly Building, Room 1223
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Delegate Sam Rasoul, Chair
House Education
General Assembly Building, Room 910
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Chairs Lucas, Torian, Favola, and Rasoul:

Pursuant to Chapter 103 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is providing an update regarding specific cost options that were included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Commonwealth's K-12 Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment vendor. The [RFP](#) for the Virginia Statewide K-12 Student Assessment Program was issued in eVA on July 27, 2026, and submissions were due September 15, 2026. The VDOE is currently reviewing proposals received and continuing through the RFP process. We are unable to share the details of the submissions received until the RFP process is completed.

As was communicated on July 27, 2026, this RFP builds on years of support and direction from the General Assembly to ensure that the design and delivery of Virginia's assessment system supports strong teaching and learning in all classrooms. Further, the VDOE's vision and approach to this RFP were shaped by the Innovative Assessment Workgroup, established in Item 119.A.3.d. (Chapter 725, 2025 Acts of Assembly).

Two main priorities for Virginia's assessment system that were reflected in the RFP include: 1) improving data reporting to help teachers and families support student learning and 2) continuing to raise academic standards through more challenging content and test items. These priorities are

also reflected in the cost options included in the RFP consistent with Chapter 103 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly.

Specifically, Exhibit M. Cost Options of the RFP invited potential assessment vendors to provide cost information for various activities and assessment features in response to Chapter 103:

- Cost option 1: Enhanced constructed response items in reading/writing. This cost option was intended to inform subsection L 1 of § 22.1-253.13:3.
- Cost option 2: Constructed response items in math. This cost option was intended to inform subsection L 1 of § 22.1-253.13:3.
- Cost option 3: Constructed response items in science. This cost option was intended to inform subsection L 1 of § 22.1-253.13:3.
- Cost option 4: Constructed response items in social science. This cost option was intended to inform subsection L 1 of § 22.1-253.13:3.
- Cost option 9: Annual full form release. This cost option was intended to inform subsection K 1 of § 22.1-253.13:3.
- Cost option 10: Local alternative assessment audit. This cost option was intended to inform subsection K 2 of § 22.1-253.13:3.

Exhibit M did not include any cost options pertaining to subsection L 2 of § 22.1-253.13:3, as these requirements, if reenacted, would conflict with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Chapter 103 directed the VDOE to add provisions in subsections K and L as “add alternate components”—in other words, cost options—“to the extent permitted under federal law.”

Under the ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and its corresponding regulations in 34 CFR § 200.2, federally required state assessments in reading or language arts, mathematics, and science must “address the depth and breadth” of state academic content standards. The Commonwealth is not permitted to assess students “only on the most significant content” of our Standards of Learning, as stated in subsection L 2 of § 22.1-253.13:3. However, because Virginia’s history and social science assessments are not required by federal law, subsection L 2 would not conflict with federal requirements if it were limited to Virginia’s history and social science assessments.

The VDOE will have more detailed cost information regarding the cost options described in subsections K and L of Chapter 103 when the Notice to Award is posted. The VDOE will continue to keep you informed of the process, particularly as preparations for the 2027 session begin. In the interim, please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Regards,



Jenna Conway
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