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Teaching & Learning

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NNPS Families:

On September 20, 2018, the Virginia Board of Education approved Guidelines for the Use of Local Performance Assessments to verify credit in End-of-Course Writing. The Standards of Accreditation (8VAC20-131-110B5) permit local school divisions to award a verified credit in writing to a student who “meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit in English (writing) by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment, that complies with guidelines adopted by the board.”

Performance assessments generally require students to perform a task or create a product that is scored using a rubric. Authentic performance assessments often include tasks that mirror “real-life” situations. Performance tasks used to award verified credits must be evaluated using the Virginia Quality Criterion Tool for Performance-Based Assessments and must include three types of writing covered in English, grades 9-11: persuasive, analytical, and argumentative. At least one of the writing samples must include a research component.

All samples collected for the purpose of verifying a credit in End-of-Course Writing must be completed at school under the supervision of school personnel. Writing samples must be completed independently by the student. Student writing samples must be scored using the state-developed high school writing rubric by scorers who have been trained on the application of the rubric. The student writing samples used by the school division to determine student proficiency in writing and grammar skills, grade 9-11, constitute a body of evidence.

The school division will review the body of evidence against the performance level descriptors that describe the student’s level of achievement in high school writing to determine if the student’s achievement is advanced, proficient, or does not meet the standard (fail). Students who score proficient or advanced on the body of evidence, according to these descriptors, will be awarded a verified credit.

Families will be notified, through ParentVue and StudentVue, of the student’s academic performance after each sample is collected and scored. Once the entire body of evidence is considered for review, families will be notified if their student received the verified credit in writing needed to meet graduation requirements. Attached you will find the rubric used to score the local performance assessments in grades 9-11, as well as the Performance Level Descriptors that are used to award verified credit in writing.

The Local Performance Assessment writing assessment will be administered to students in grades 9, 10, and 11 this year. For this year’s junior class, the local performance assessment will be scored, and after that, the completed body of evidence will be considered for a verified credit in writing. Should students not be successful with the local performance assessment process, they will have an opportunity for an alternative assessment to obtain the verified credit.

Please contact English Supervisor Kelly Mancil ([Kelly.McCoig@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:Kelly.McCoig@nn.k12.va.us)) or Testing Supervisor, Sherri Sanchez ([Sherri.Sanchez@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:Sherri.Sanchez@nn.k12.va.us)) if you have any questions.

Thank you!