

Mountain View Elementary School

Standards of Learning (SOL) – Online Testing

For the past several years, most middle schools and high schools in Virginia have administered the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments online, rather than as paper-and-pencil tests. Online testing is now also being adopted as the preferred method to administer SOL assessments in the elementary grades.

SOL testing is scheduled for May 16th through June 10th for students in grades 3-5 in Loudoun County Public Schools, with each school setting their own schedule within that period.

During May/June 2011, all grade 4 and grade 5 students in Loudoun County Public Schools will be administered their SOL assessments (Grade 4 Reading, Mathematics, and Virginia Studies, Grade 5 Reading, Mathematics, and Science) as online tests, unless it would be in the child's best interest to instead take paper-and-pencil tests.

This year, students in grade 3 will continue to take the paper-and-pencil version of the SOL assessments (Grade 3 Reading, Mathematics, Science, and History and Social Science).

The Virginia Department of Education has conducted numerous studies to ensure that the online tests are comparable to paper-and-pencil tests. That is, students would earn approximately the same score, regardless of whether they took the test on a computer or with paper-and-pencil.

Students will have a number of different training experiences prior to actually taking an SOL test online. However, for students or parents who are uncomfortable with online SOL testing, a paper-and-pencil version of the tests will be made available.

If you would like more information about online SOL testing, you can download to your home computer a "tutorial." This is about a 10 minute "video," with either accompanying sound or on-screen text, that provides an overview of online SOL testing in a variety of different subjects. From the Loudoun County Public Schools' Internet Home Page (www.lcps.org), follow the path:

Quick Links > Testing > SOL Online Testing

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.