

January 26, 2012

Dear Parents,

Most Virginia public school students in grades 3 through 8, and those enrolled in certain high school courses participate in the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments. At grades 5 and 8, and in high school at English 11, students take the SOL English: Writing test. This test has two parts. The students answer multiple-choice questions about the writing process, and also write an essay or "Short Paper." SOL English: Writing has been administered as a paper/pencil test, but beginning Spring 2013, it will be given as an online computer test. Students will write their essay and also answer multiple-choice test questions on a computer.

In preparation for the Spring 2013 change in SOL English: Writing from a paper/pencil test to an online test, students in grades 5, 8, and English 11 will take part in the SOL English: Writing Online Field Test this year. The field test will provide the Virginia Department of Education an opportunity to gather data about SOL English: Writing as an online test before the actual online test in Spring 2013. Because the SOL English: Writing Online Field Test is a "test of the test," students and schools will not receive scores.

Students will be administered the Short Paper, or essay, for the SOL English: Writing Online Field Test the week of February 13, 2012.

The Multiple-Choice section of the SOL English: Writing Online Field Test will then be given to students during the week of March 12, 2012.

In addition to participating in the SOL English: Writing Online Field Test, this March, students in grades 5, 8, and English 11 will still be administered SOL English: Writing as a paper/pencil test, the same as in previous years, and students and schools will receive scores. This test will be administered the week of March 5, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 571-252-2260.