

**BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

**AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { X }      ACTION {    }      CLOSED MEETING {    }**

**SUBJECT:                      SUPERINTENDENT’S PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

**Performance-Based Assessments (PBAs)**

**BACKGROUND:                      Legislation in the 2014 General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia to eliminate several Standards of Learning (SOL) tests: Gr. 3 History, Gr. 3 Science, Gr. 5 Writing, U.S. History to 1865, and U.S. History: 1865 to Present.**

**The legislation also requires the administration of an alternate assessment to students in each subject area in which the SOL assessment was eliminated, consistent with VDOE guidelines, first approved in September, 2014, and revised in October, 2016.**

**These legislative actions were in response to increasing concern regarding the amount of testing in local school divisions and the time spent in test preparation activities and to encourage the greater use of assessments, such as performance-based assessments (PBAs), that may be used by teachers to improve instruction. PBAs generally require students to perform a task or create a product that is typically scored by a rubric. Authentic assessments often include tasks that mirror those that might occur in real-life.**

**The guidelines set the expectation that school divisions are to demonstrate progress in moving toward the use of PBAs and provide a timeline for implementation. During the 2016-2017 school year, school divisions are expected to use at least one PBA in the classrooms where the above five subjects are taught. In 2017-2018, school divisions will be expected to share examples of PBAs across divisions, and by 2018-2019, school divisions should be prepared to partner with other divisions to score some of the assessments from each other's schools.**

**Since the use of authentic, performance assessments constitutes a new direction for Virginia, there is no expectation that PBAs will be perfectly executed immediately. Mrs. Hicklin will provide an overview of BCPS progress to date.**