Comments from the 2016 VATD Regional Meetings

Test Nav 8 for SOLs:

- Seems to be ok except for accidental submits and getting it unlocked
- OK except for spell check errors and moving students from one session to another
- So far so good for writing but will have better idea after testing
- Different question types for TEI and a list of types of TEI by test
- So far so good but there could be issues in the spring with elementary
- Made impact on ARTO and not being able to give it
- Required touching every machine, audio sessions kept getting booted and problems with proctor cache practice tests

WIDA -AMS Tests:

- Costs keep rising and support sometimes provides conflicting information
- The presentation should have been multiple breakout sessions not large group
- Follow-up on Shelley's advice to WIDA/DRC – we need better customer service
- More listening and changing by DRC, need alternate forms, and VDOE should take initiative
- Cautiously hopeful
- Addresses usefulness in sessions
- Headphones with mics not specified clearly and materials seemed unorganized, though for small groups it didn't matter

Why new upload requirements (for what purpose):

- Happy with local test field because we use to task interventions
- Would like explanations of why new fields are necessary
- NADA
- Why four types of military and why was this so late
- Explained well – issues with Power School not being ready to pull into test upload extract
- Not an issue for testing
- No problem, information is only as good as input by school

Accommodations Changes

- We like flexible schedule and multiple days being separated but required additional work
- Need explicit written direction to accommodate and remove extra "stuff"
- Would like a session on accommodations (LEP, SWD) specifically on Read aloud training
- It will be difficult until IEP's have been updated and a crosswalk is needed

- Thankful that we can document but do special education people know to align IEPs with codes and wording
- Prefer this positive change
- Accommodations do not match IEP online which could cause confusion

Performance Assessment Rubrics:

- Are we exchanging across divisions or within divisions? Are we exchanging for the purposes of scoring? We need clarification on products and rubrics.
- Need guidance on what to share with other divisions/collaboration; need guidelines on the development of the rubrics
- Clarify the "sharing" that Dr. Staples mentioned. He said that we would share within county and didn't mean sharing with other counties
- Need best practice rubrics from state. Is it sharing in schools or across divisions? More clarification is needed. DOE should provide performance assessments and rubrics. Schools cannot manage this financially nor do we have the skills necessary to do this. With VDOE providing, this would create consistency in reporting and consistency in the assessment process. Eventually we could have choices, help manage scoring, training, and teachers/quality control.
- Region 8 has begun implementation of the performance assessments; Mecklenburg has been working on them for two years and are at various stages of implementation.

Data use in your school division (Class, School, Division)

- Richmond City is using Data Wise; SDBQ at the division level is needed; larger divisions see inconsistency across the division. Divisions are providing PD. Concerns were expressed about the proposed timelines for 2016-17 and the need to adjust classroom instruction and assessment within the school year. We are experiencing a disconnect between various sources of information and among our own understandings of the requirements and timelines.
- Should have been a handout; there are different levels of staff and audience; everyone can have different role.
- Jason's session was great. We need more sessions on manipulating data – hands on presentation, DDOTS need manipulation training.
- Student Performance by Strand – need professional development for classroom instruction.
- So much data but no way to manage and aggregate / not able to use it for this reason.
- Most schools are data driven
- SOL, PALS, IREADY, AR, ROSETTA STONE, Benchmark (PowerSchool), STAR, ARDT (not available), ALEKS, Gizmo/Reflex, Criterion (writing), IXL

Overall reaction to the State Superintendent's message:

- His presentation made the rationale and passion behind the changes clearer. The changes to SOL requirements seem daunting. The changes to SOLs in high school lead to questions. The divisions have to make policies about which tests students will take. It will be an issue with transfer students. Glow – we are excited about change to the graduate profile – career education and capstone projects. Teachers might need additional experiences in "the real-world work places."
- Great details; he needs more time to do his presentation.
- We love Dr. Staples! Like the profile of a graduate.
- Exciting. Shifting to inputs and outcomes
- Need to align industry tests, college placements/scoring tests with state's high school content testing. Having them separate is a waste of taxpayer $ / should pay for what kids need in the future. We have concerns about pass rates at high school level when upper level kids don't need to test. New locally verified credits rules will mean schools never get credit for students eventually passing/no motivation to retake and pass; We like where we are heading and support looking at multi-measures. Need to be able to filter and take demographics into context when looking at and comparing schools – examples: school size, % poverty; % minority; urban/rural, high poverty, high performing, low poverty, low performing, etc. Important to highlight what schools do well/somewhat unsure about "blue ribbon" terminology/ still very elitist language. Can put in school name and see it on plot or check on plots and see school names. Also, able to sort plot by demographics.
- How will internships work in small rural areas? Do we have capacity to meet the vision?
- Excited for new direction- individuals must have a solid plan for roll out (some boundaries). Need guidance for next steps with history.

Other Comments

- VDOE meeting needs to be 2 days. A lot of new information coming out. Presentation is too condensed. Also, needs to be earlier in October/September.
- Once accountability is approved we need training on EOC SOL testing requirements.
- Could Virginia change options of assessments so that portfolio assessment is not considered an alternative assessment? Does USED only allow multiple choice?
- VATD: more divisions doing presentations; VDOE help with ideas from what they hear; ESSA; Roundtables on different topics.
- Residential facility needs to occur at state level; Don't need to receive a bag; each region does a presentation; needed more breakout sessions; Conference does not need to be during writing testing window; Susan Williams does not need to be last – it's hard to be out of the office.