

Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) Required for Teacher Candidates Seeking Licensure in Pk-3, Pk-6, Special Education, Reading Specialist

Effective July 1, 2004, the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) will be a requirement for teacher candidates seeking an initial license in elementary education prek-3 and prek-6, special education, reading specialist, and for individuals who are adding any of these endorsements to a license. The VRA is a Virginia Department of Education licensing requirement to determine the prospective teachers' proficiency in phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency for effective reading instruction.

The Resolution of the Board of Education to require a reading instructional assessment for teachers of elementary education prek-3 and prek-6, special education, and reading specialists was adopted April, 2003. To comply with the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) Act of 2001, the VRA is consistent with the Virginia Licensure Regulations for School Personnel, Virginia Standards of Learning and the National Reading Panel's five key components of effective reading instruction: phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency.

During the period from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2006, the VRA test will not require a cut (passing) score. The scores collected during this period from Virginia test takers will provide baseline data that will assist the Virginia Board of Education in establishing an appropriate cut score. The cut score approved by the Virginia Board of Education will become effective July 1, 2006. The first administration of the VRA test will take place on Saturday, September 18, 2004. It will consist of 90 multiple-choice and 4 constructed items. The administration of the VRA test will allow up to 4 hours to complete the test. Pre-registration fee for the VRA is \$70.00, plus an additional \$30.00 on-site test fee. Testing sites for the administration of the VRA will be announced at a future date. As more information is released from the Virginia Department of Education, it will be posted on the Announcement web page of the Teacher Education Services and Advising web site: www.odu.edu/tes.