



Dr. S. Stuart Flanagan
Box 276
North, VA 23128
(804) 725-7997
(804) 725-5541 fax
ssflan@vims.edu

Visit *Tests for Higher Standards* online at
<http://www.tfhs.net>

Dr. David E.W. Mott
5310 Markel Rd. Suite 104
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 282-3111
(804) 282-4126 fax
(866) 724-9722
dem@tfhs.net

July, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Greetings with the hope you had a relaxing summer break and are now excited about moving forward with your SY 11-12 plans. We want to help make those plans a huge success!

Towards this end, your SY 11-12 CD has some improvements and modifications:

- As the Mathematics SOLs have been revised for SY 11-12 testing, we want to ensure you our materials are 100% aligned. We plan to have some open ended items as the State SOL tests with have a few for the upper grades.
- Your CD will contain, at no additional cost, a draft of the item bank for the new Math course: Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis (AFDA).
- The H/SS materials are aligned to the new 2008 standards. We have adjusted the Simulation Tests to meet the State's increased level of rigor and difficulty. We have adjusted the calibrations for SY 11-12 Simulations to match these new SOLs.
- **We will have a DRAFT of the ELA items to be tested SY 12-13. For grades k-2, these are the standards that that should be taught SY 11-12.**
- We are increasing the number ELA VGLA assessments for the coming school year and there is no additional charge to clients. We have items for each and every SOL grades 3-8.
- Items have been added to the English SABs, as well as new items in Science, H/SS, and Mathematics.
- The **SABs** (Student Assessment Bank) will have additional items added to the existing bank.
- As with last year, all fonts will be in **Tahoma**, which will conform to the State's changes.
- All English materials, SABs, Grade Level, and Simulation tests, will be in one column format while Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics will, at times, provide the option of either one or two column tests. The primary consideration is paper usage with one column test requiring more paper. There is no evidence that the validity or reliability is more effective with one form or the other.
- We have a set of items in Spanish that are available now.
- Should you need assistance in developing benchmark tests, we are able to offer that service.

When you receive the new CD, you are invited to call Dr. Flanagan at 804-725-7997 and I will walk you through and explain the layout. I will also assist you with plans to maximize the benefits of our testing system. To make sure you can contact me by phone, email me when you want to call or email me a time to call you.

We look forward to working with you and having another good year!

Best Wishes,

S. Stuart Flanagan

David E. W. Mott