

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon,
Division Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair
Christopher Smith, Sr., Vice-Chair

June 14, 2024

Greetings, Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As we close the 2023-2024 school year, we are writing to inform you of the full implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This transformative initiative marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to fostering literacy excellence among our students. The VLA, enacted by the Virginia General Assembly, aims to ensure that every child in our state receives high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction using high quality instructional materials and based on science based reading research. By focusing on early literacy skills development, the act aims to lay a strong foundation for academic success and lifelong learning.

We are excited to share with you the attached Virginia Department of Education's VLA one-pager, introducing the Virginia Literacy Act. This document is designed to provide you with a clear understanding of the VLA and its impact on your child's education. Through this one-pager, you will learn about the key objectives of the VLA, including the importance of early literacy development and targeted interventions for students who may need additional support. It emphasizes the collaborative efforts between educators, families, and communities in fostering literacy success. By engaging with this resource, you will be equipped with valuable insights into how you can support your child's literacy journey and contribute to their academic growth. We encourage you to take a moment to review the VLA one-pager and join us in our commitment to nurturing literacy skills in our children. Together, we can make a significant difference in their educational journey.

Also attached to this letter is the Southampton County Public School's Literacy Vision. This vision is designed to be a pillar for our school community and stakeholders during implementation of the VLA. Our objective is to ensure that all actions carried out during implementation will revolve around these comprehensive ideals and goals. Our division remains dedicated to providing the best possible literacy instruction and education to your student.

By fully implementing the Virginia Literacy Act, we are committed to equipping every student with the literacy skills they need to succeed academically and thrive in the 21st century. We invite you to partner with us in this important endeavor and encourage you to engage with your child's school to learn more about how you can support literacy at home.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the education of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon
Division Superintendent
Southampton County Public Schools

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