

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
44. More citizens will express faith in the teaching profession.	1	2	3	4
45. Parents will be less likely to criticize teachers' performance.	1	2	3	4
46. Teachers will worry that low SOL scores will damage their reputations.	1	2	3	4
47. Teachers will have greater authority to choose curriculum topics.	1	2	3	4
48. Public support for schools will be determined by school SOL scores.	1	2	3	4
49. Students' math competency will improve significantly.	1	2	3	4
50. More teachers will complain about "burnout."	1	2	3	4
51. More low-achieving students will be placed in special education classes.	1	2	3	4
52. Students will experience less joy in learning.	1	2	3	4

Please list any other outcomes you think are likely to occur as a result of Virginia's mandated curriculum and SOL Testing program:

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**PLEASE ALSO COMPLETE THE ITEMS ON THE BACK ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM.**

**Demographic Information**

**Note: The following information will be used for statistical comparisons only. It will not be associated with any individual.**

- Your years of experience in public education (counting this year):  
 0-3     4-10     11-19     20-29     30+
- Your **primary** teaching assignment this year (check only one):  
 K-5     6-8     9-12     Guidance  
 Special Education     Librarian     Other
- Your tenure status (this year):  
 Tenured (continuing contract status)  
 Non-tenured (non-continuing contract status)
- Are you teaching a grade or subject in which your students will be taking one or more SOL tests?  
 Yes  
 No
- Name of your school: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of your school division: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interview Opportunity**

After all questionnaires are returned, I would like to interview a small number of teachers by phone to gain even greater teacher perspective about Virginia's mandated curriculum and SOL testing program.

**If you would be willing to talk to the researcher about these topics in a brief telephone interview, please include your name and a telephone number where you can be contacted below. Your opinions will be appreciated!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Best time of day to call: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX D  
SURVEY INSTRUMENT**



November 4, 2000

Dear Colleague:

As a former teacher in regular education and special education and now as a principal, I have important questions about state-mandated testing in public schools in Virginia. Our State Board of Education has explained the benefits of our mandated curriculum and SOL testing program. However, various researchers caution of potentially harmful effects from such policies. I want to know what Virginia teachers think about this debate. My goal is to accurately describe teacher opinions about these topics.

I have constructed the following instrument to help determine the outcomes that are likely to result from Virginia's mandated SOL curriculum and SOL testing program. Will you please share your thoughts on these subjects by completing the following instrument?

Because the survey is being sent to only a small but representative sample of teachers in the state, the response of every individual is important.

Your responses to the questionnaire will be held in strictest confidence. No responses will be identifiable with any individual, school, or school district. Questionnaires are numbered only to permit follow up on non-returns. Completion of the questionnaire should require no more than about 10 minutes. Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you very much for your help in the completion of this project.

Sincerely,

Dale E. Margheim  
Principal  
Shawsville Elementary School  
Doctoral Candidate

Sincerely,

David J. Parks  
Professor

**LIKELY OUTCOMES OF VIRGINIA'S MANDATED CURRICULUM AND SOL TESTING PROGRAM**

Directions: Circle the most appropriate number on the following four point scale to indicate your agreement with all items:

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
1. The SOL testing program will raise the status of public education in the state.	1	2	3	4
2. Teaching practices will emphasize rote recall of facts.	1	2	3	4
3. Students will feel too much anxiety about SOL tests.	1	2	3	4
4. The goal of classroom testing will be to improve SOL test scores.	1	2	3	4
5. Schools with low SOL scores will be told how to improve.	1	2	3	4
6. Schools' decision-making authority will be reduced.	1	2	3	4
7. The public will be more confident in Virginia's public schools.	1	2	3	4
8. Financially disadvantaged students will fail SOL tests in disproportionately high numbers.	1	2	3	4
9. Teachers will experience increased self-esteem.	1	2	3	4
10. Teachers in SOL test grades will ask to transfer to other grades.	1	2	3	4
11. Students with academic learning disabilities will fail SOL tests in disproportionately high numbers.	1	2	3	4
12. Students' writing competency will improve significantly.	1	2	3	4
13. Teaching practices will improve.	1	2	3	4

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
14. Schools will be empowered to develop their own vision for student outcomes.	1	2	3	4
15. Teaching practices will emphasize a curriculum that is too narrow.	1	2	3	4
16. Schools with high SOL scores will be perceived by the public as good schools.	1	2	3	4
17. The public will support increased taxes to significantly raise teacher salaries.	1	2	3	4
18. Teachers will be less happy in their jobs.	1	2	3	4
19. Teachers will worry about their students' SOL test scores.	1	2	3	4
20. More low achieving students will be retained in school.	1	2	3	4
21. Teaching practices will begin to resemble SOL tests.	1	2	3	4
22. The SOL curriculum will give schools autonomy to make their own decisions.	1	2	3	4
23. Schools with low SOL scores will be perceived by the public as bad schools.	1	2	3	4
24. More teachers will stop teaching to accept other jobs.	1	2	3	4
25. Students will have more negative attitudes about attending school.	1	2	3	4
26. Teacher absenteeism will increase.	1	2	3	4
27. Opinion polls will indicate greater confidence in Virginia's teachers.	1	2	3	4
28. The publication of SOL test scores will encourage schools to define their own instructional problems.	1	2	3	4

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
29. More low achieving students will drop out of school.	1	2	3	4
30. Too much teaching time will be spent preparing students for SOL tests.	1	2	3	4
31. Teachers will develop more positive attitudes about teaching.	1	2	3	4
32. Teachers will experience greater stress due to the SOL testing program.	1	2	3	4
33. The public will have greater faith in teachers.	1	2	3	4
34. Threats by the state to take over low-achieving schools will cause them to improve.	1	2	3	4
35. Less time will be devoted to topics not addressed on SOL tests.	1	2	3	4
36. Minority students will fail SOL tests in disproportionately higher numbers.	1	2	3	4
37. Student scores on nationally normed tests will improve.	1	2	3	4
38. Teachers will experience greater satisfaction with teaching as a career.	1	2	3	4
39. Teachers will worry more about their job security.	1	2	3	4
40. Students with low SOL scores will be tracked into low level classes.	1	2	3	4
41. Students' reading comprehension will improve significantly.	1	2	3	4
42. More time will be devoted to teaching critical thinking.	1	2	3	4
43. Schools with low SOL scores will have less autonomy to make their own decisions.	1	2	3	4