

GETTING STARTED IN SOLAR®

Accessing Benchmark Data

To Register

*If you registered last year and remember/have your User ID and password, you do not need to re-register. Go directly to “Log In.”

1. Open *Internet Explorer (version 5.5 or higher)* or *Safari*
2. In the address box only type: “**testing.cssg.com**”
Do not type: <http://> or “www”
3. Select the second option: “SOLAR Teacher and Administrator Log-On”
4. Under the REGISTER tab, click on the blue “Teacher & Administrator” hyperlink
 - a. **Enter User ID number** – provided by your school administrator
(**This number** was provided to SOLAR by your Central Office and **is case-sensitive**)
 - b. Create your own password: Enter new password and re-type the password
 1. This **password is** of your choosing and **is not case sensitive**. It also does not require numbers or a mixture of numbers and letters (alpha-numeric).
 - Choose your school division/district from the pull-down menu
 - **Enter November 11, 1975 for your birthday** (Everyone in the School Division/District uses this default birth date)
 - c. Click “Register”

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE NOW REGISTERED IN SOLAR.

WAY TO GO!!!!

Registered User Steps To Accessing Benchmark Data

To Log In

1. Open *Internet Explorer (version 5.5 or higher)* or *Safari*
2. In the address box only type: “**testing.cssg.com**”
Do not type: <http://> or “www”
3. ALWAYS START AT THE HOMEPAGE OF : “ **testing.cssg.com** “
(NEVER SAVE ANY OTHER WEBPAGE OF SOLAR IN YOUR FAVORITE PLACES **ONLY testing.cssg.com**)
4. Select the second option: “SOLAR Teacher and Administrator Log-On”
5. Under the **LOG-IN** tab, select “**Teacher & Administrator**”
 - a. Enter User ID – – provided by your school administrator (then click the tab key)
(**This number** was provided to SOLAR by your Central Office and **is case-sensitive**)
 - b. Choose your school division/district from the pull-down menu or type the first letter of the name (then click the tab key).
 - c. Enter the password you created.

Reviewing Your Benchmark Data

Under the “**Reports**” tab (white bar) click on the hyperlink “**View Test Results**”

Benchmark Data Reports

Four Main Reports from Macro to Micro

1. Get a general idea of how your class performed demonstrating mastery and retention of essential skills on a SOLAR delivered diagnostic benchmark, and it’s performance in comparison to your school overall results, and district/division results.

a. **Virginia Distribution Report**

- Essential Skill Level Mastery Report – Classroom Level

This report provides an Essential Skill Level Mastery Report for your homeroom or class sections you teach. This report provides a macro view of your class/homeroom essential skill mastery and retention in comparison to your school building’s and division-wide overall results.

2. Identify students that were successful and unsuccessful demonstrating their mastery and retention of essential skills on a SOLAR delivered diagnostic benchmark(s), and their individual performance in comparison to other individual students in your class/homeroom, in comparison to your homeroom/class average demonstrated mastery and retention of the essential skill on the diagnostic benchmark.

a. **Virginia Distribution Report**

- Essential Skill Level Mastery Report – Student Level

This report provides an Essential Skill Level Mastery Report for your students (reporting four students skills mastery on each page) for your homeroom or class sections you teach. This report provides a more micro view of the essential skills mastery and retention of the students in your class/homeroom versus the overall classroom average results on the diagnostic benchmark for your class.

Benchmark Data Reports (Continued)

Four Main Reports from Macro to Micro

3. Identify the weak essential skills that need to be re-taught using a **new** lesson or different instructional resources for the whole class, small group, or individually.

a. Test Session Proficiency Report

Whole Class, Small Group

This report provides a remediation/intervention student grouping report by Essential Skill Level and Mastery for your classroom. The report provides either a bar graph or pie chart along with each SOL and reporting category. Students are grouped together by skill gap for each essential skill/knowledge on the diagnostic benchmark for purposes of remediation/intervention.

The last page of this report separates the students by percent of skills band demonstrated as mastered on the diagnostic benchmark. There are six performance bands (**0% - 30%** / **31% - 60%** / **61% - 69%** / **70% - 79%** / **79% - 89%** / **90% plus**), that provide a diagnostic snap-shot in time how your students performed in their demonstration of skills mastered and retained, inclusive of skills based on Bloom's taxonomy (comprehension and higher thinking skills versus knowledge and below thinking skills).

b. Student Performance Profile Report

Individual Students

This report provides an essential skills report card for each student, detailing each student's demonstrated skill/knowledge mastery and retention on each diagnostic benchmark assessment administered. This report is an excellent talking document for one-on-one student and/or one-on-one parent discussions/conferences. This report provides the necessary detail for explaining to a student or parent the essential skills/knowledge mastery and retention required for the individual student to excel in their educational pursuits in the class and/or next grades of promotion.

This report is also an excellent tool for the IEP specialist working with a student case, it provides detailed instructional skill goals for incorporating into the goal plan for students with an IEP.

Resources for Remediation

1. Curriculum Framework
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/sol.html>
2. Enhanced Scope and Sequence Guides With Instructional Material/Resource Correlation Maps
<http://ww.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/EnhancedSandS>
3. Swapping exemplary lessons
4. Using a different modality from the one used in the original lesson
5. Swapping students for particular lessons