



Virginia Assessment Program (VAP)/SOL's

The **Standards of Learning (SOL)** for Virginia Public Schools establish minimum expectations for what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade or course in English, mathematics, science, history/social science, and other subjects.

SOL tests in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and history/social science measure the success of students in meeting the Board of Education's expectations for learning and achievement. All items on SOL tests are reviewed by Virginia classroom teachers for accuracy and fairness and teachers also assist the state Board of Education in setting proficiency standards for the tests.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is a national leader in the use of technology to develop and administer the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. Virginia's school divisions have been administering online tests to students for over a decade. Innovations include a new test delivery system, a computer adaptive format for most mathematics and reading tests, and the use of various technology-enhanced items. Virginia has also added an online calculator from [Desmos](#) to improve the testing experience of students while taking online mathematics tests.

Standards of Learning assessments in English reading, mathematics, science, and history/social science are made up of 35-50 items or questions that measure content knowledge, scientific and mathematical processes, reasoning, and critical thinking skills. English writing skills are measured with a two-part assessment that includes multiple-choice items and an essay.

Student performance is graded on a scale of 0-600 with 400 representing the minimum level of acceptable proficiency and 500 representing advanced proficiency. On English reading and mathematics tests, the Board of Education has defined three levels of student achievement: basic, proficient, and advanced, with basic describing progress towards proficiency.