

Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the portfolio-based VAAP will be replaced with a new multiple-choice assessment in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science that will be administered to students in an online or paper format. The new VAAP will be based on academic content standards derived from the Standards of Learning (SOL) in reading, mathematics, and science that have been reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity. These content standards are referred to as the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL).

Because history/social science and writing are not addressed in the VESOL and the new VAAP does not include items that cover content in these subject areas, eligible students with disabilities will be assessed in history/social science and writing using collections of evidence that demonstrate student achievement on the existing Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL)

Specifically, history/social science collections of evidence are required for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in the grade levels that Virginia Studies and Civics and Economics are assessed in the school division for students without disabilities. Writing collections of evidence are required for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grade 8. Students at the high school level with significant cognitive disabilities are not required to submit collections of evidence for history/social science or writing since the high school state assessments in these subject areas are used to meet diploma requirements for students pursuing a standard or advanced studies diploma. Students participating in VAAP generally pursue an Applied Studies diploma.

The VAAP is only available for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3–8 and high school. Decisions about participation in the VAAP are made by the student’s IEP team. The following documents are used to determine eligibility for participation in the VAAP:

VAAP Participation Criteria and the Determination of Significant Cognitive Disabilities.

VAAP Participation Criteria Form These documents are available on the VAAP webpage on the VDOE website.

Eligible students will have to achieve a 740 to earn a performance level of pass/proficient scaled score of at least and a scaled score of at least 780 to achieve a performance level of pass/advanced for reading, mathematics, and science. Each test is comprised of 30 items that count towards a student’s score. These scaled scores are equivalent to the following number of items correct on the test forms reviewed by the educator committees convened to recommend passing scores to the Board