# Students with Disabilities: Assessment Options in the Virginia Accountability Program

A Presentation to the

Special Education Advisory Committee

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Christina Lebo, Special Education Coordinator

# Student Assessment – two purposes

### Formative Assessment

- Classroom
- Ongoing
- Frequent
- Guides instruction

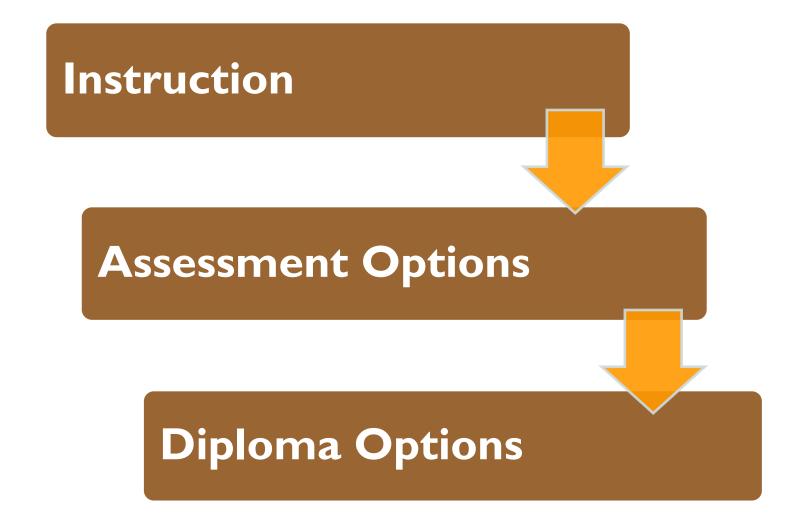
### Summative Assessment

- Statewide
- Accountability (NCLB, IDEA SPP, Virginia Standards of Accreditation)
- High stakes/barrier tests for specific diploma options
- Used for verified credits for specific diploma options

# Goals for this presentation:

- Virginia statewide assessment options/diploma options
- Determining how students with disabilities will participate in assessment system
- Assessment changes SY 2010/11
- The future of assessments in Virginia

# How it fits together...



# Virginia Assessment Program Options for Students with Disabilities

Content Standards	Assessment Options	Grade-Level/Content Area Test Requirements	
Standards of Learning (SOL)	SOL Assessments without accommodations	Grades 3-8 and End-of-Course Tests	
	SOL Assessments with accommodations	Grades 3-8 and End-of-Course Tests	
	Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)	Grades 3-8 subject area content	
	Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)/Verified Credit for Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma VSEP/Literacy and Numeracy Certification for Modified	End-of-Course Tests  Grade 8 Reading and Mathematics	
	Standard Diploma	Tests	
	State-approved substitute tests for verified credit or	End-of-Course Tests	
	State-approved substitute tests for Literacy and Numeracy Certification	Grade 8 Reading and Mathematics Tests	
Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL)	Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)	Grades 3-8 and Grades 9-11 for Writing, Reading, Mathematics, Science and History/Social Science subject area content	

# Instruction (SOL)



### **Assessment**

## Standards of Learning (SOLs)

- Multiple-choice Standards of Learning (SOL) tests (IEP team should consider first)
- <u>Alternative</u> Assessment (= SOL) Collection of evidence that demonstrates student's level of achievement on grade level standards of learning content
  - Students unable to demonstrate a level of proficiency of SOL grade level content knowledge in a multiple-choice format
- Grades 3 to 8 VGLA
   Virginia Grade Level Alternative Assessment
- Grades 9 to 12 (EOC tests) VSEP
  - Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program

# Instruction (ASOL)



## **Assessment**

## Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL)

"The ASOL are academic standards that have derived from the SOL. The ASOL provide students with significant cognitive disabilities with access to cross-grade level SOL content that has been reduced in complexity and depth. Appropriate content-level standards have been identified for each content area: reading, writing, mathematics, science and history/social science."

2010/11 VAAP Implementation Manual, page 1.

- Alternate Assessment collection of evidence
- Virginia <u>Alternate</u> Assessment Program (VAAP)
- Only intended for a small group of students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Available for students in grades 3 to 8 and grade 11

# ASOL Crosswalk

ASOLs
represent the
SOL curriculum
that has been
reduced in depth
and complexity

ASOLs	SOL Grade Level Skills Chosen	
Grade 3	Kindergarten	
Grade 4	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	
Grade 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	
Grade 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	
Grade 7	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
Grade 8	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
Grade 11	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	

### **Assessment**



# **Options**

#### **Standards of Learning (SOL)**

- I. Multiple Choice Tests (SOLs)
- 2. Virginia Grade Level Assessment (VGLA)
- 3. Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)
- 4. VDOE Approved Substitute tests



- I. ADVANCED
  STUDIES DIPLOMA
- 2. STANDARD DIPLOMA
- 3. MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA
- 4. \* 2 NEW TECHNICAL DIPLOMAS

#### Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL)

I. Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)



I. Special Diploma (student meets the requirements of their IEP)

# DETERMINING HOW STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PARTICIPATE IN VIRGINIA'S ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

# Determining How Students with Disabilities Participate in Virginia's Accountability System

 "All students with disabilities in grades 3 through 8 and high school will participate in Virginia's Accountability System. Students with disabilities will participate in the SOL assessments either with or without accommodations or in VGLA, VSEP, or VAAP."

Virginia Department of Education

Procedures for Participation of Students with Disabilities in

Virginia's Accountability System

(Updated April 2010 – Pages 4-5)

# Determining How Students with Disabilities Participate in Virginia's Accountability System

• "For all students with disabilities identified under IDEA 2004, the IEP team determines how the student will participate in the accountability system."

Virginia Department of Education

Procedures for Participation of Students with Disabilities in

Virginia's Accountability System

(Updated April 2010 – Pages 4-5)

# The IEP team reviews:

- Educational Records
- Student performance on previous SOL tests
- Previous accommodations used
- Student's current PLAFP
   (present level of academic and functional performance)
- Student's current IEP goals

# The IEP team reviews

Student assessment samples and student work samples

VGLA documentation: Must collect, review and summarize student performance on 6 assessment samples (3 multiple-choice tests and 3 alternative format tests) These samples must be attached to the new 2010-11 VGLA participation form

### Page 5

 "Generally decisions about how a student with a disability will be tested should be made independently for each content area. When determining participation in Virginia's Accountability System, all students with disabilities first must be considered for participation in the SOL assessments. A student's IEP or 504 Plan must specify the student's participation in the state accountability system as follows:

#### Page 5

- participation in the SOL test with no accommodations;
- participation in the SOL test with accommodations;
- participation in the VGLA or VSEP;
- participation in the VAAP;"

### Procedures for Determining Participation - Page 7

Characteristics of Student Performance	Recommended Participation for Standards of Learning Test
OPTION 1	
If the student	Then
a) is able to demonstrate knowledge and skills on a multiple choice test, either with or without accommodations;      and	the student should take the Standards of Learning test, either with or without accommodations.
b) is working on Standards of Learning at grade level	

### Procedures for Determining Participation - Page 7

#### Characteristics of Student Performance

Recommended Participation for Virginia Grade Level Alternative

#### OPTION 2

#### If the student

- a) is enrolled in grades 3 through 8,
   and
- b) has an IEP/504 Plan (or one is being developed),

#### and

 c) has a result of a disability, is unable to demonstrate knowledge and skills on a multiple-choice test, even with accommodations,

#### and

 d) is working on Standards of Learning that are at grade level,

#### and

 e) can demonstrate individual achievement of Standards of Learning content through means other than multiple-choice formats,

#### Then

the student should participate in the Virginia Grade Level Alternative.

### Procedures for Determining Participation - Page 8

Characteristics of Student Performance Recommended Participation for Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program

#### OPTION 3

#### If the student

- a) has an IEP/504 Plan (or one is being developed) and is enrolled in a course with a Standards of Learning end-of-course test,
   or
- is pursuing a Modified Standard Diploma and seeking certification for having met literacy and/or numeracy requirements
   and
- c) has a result of a disability, is unable to demonstrate knowledge and skills on a multiple-choice test, even with accommodations.

#### Then

the student should participate in the Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program.

### Procedures for Determining Participation - Page 8

Characteristics of Student Performance	Recommended Participation for Virginia Alternate Assessment Program
OPTION 4	
If the student	Then
<ul> <li>a) has an IEP (or one is being developed),</li> <li>and</li> <li>b) demonstrates significant cognitive disabilities,</li> <li>and</li> </ul>	the student should participate in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program.
c) requires intensive, frequent, and individualized instruction in a variety of settings to show interaction and achievement, and	
d) is working toward educational goals other than those prescribed for a Modified Standard, Standard, or Advanced Studies Diploma	

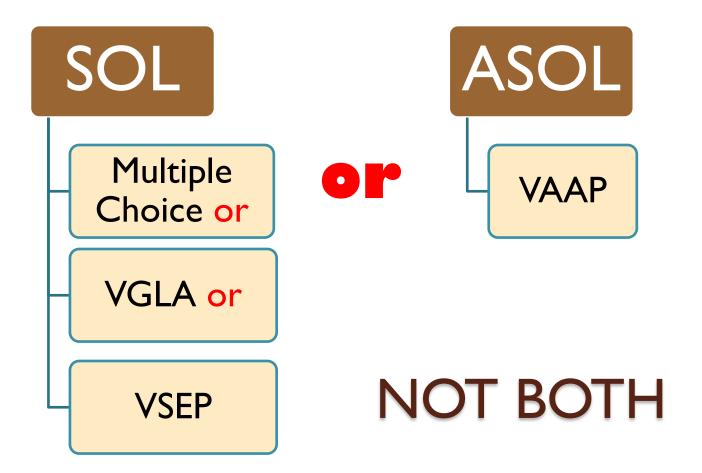
# Assessment considerations...

- Assessment decisions are made every year at the annual IEP meeting
- Students may participate in the regular SOLs with/without accommodations
- May qualify for an <u>alternative</u> assessment (VGLA or VSEP) if unable to demonstrate proficiency of grade level content on a multiple-choice test even with accommodations.
- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may participate in the <u>alternate</u> assessment program (VAAP)
   working toward a diploma other than the modified standard, standard or advanced studies.

# Participation requirements...

- VGLA/VSEP/VAAP students are assessed in the same content areas as their grade level peers
- VGLA/VSEP/VAAP IEP team must complete participation forms to make student eligible
- VGLA/VSEP participation/eligibility form must be completed for each content area considered
- VAAP students participate in all content areas as their grade level peers (one collection for all content areas)

# Student participates in the SOL tests or VAAP



# WHAT'S NEW IN ASSESSMENT FOR 2010/11?

# Goodbye VGLA







- HB340 passed March 2010 <u>phases out VGLA</u> and mandates <u>new documentation</u> requirements
- VDOE Superintendent's Memo
   #96-10 dated April 23, 2010
  - Math VGLA available this year only
  - Reading VGLA available next two years

# New level of accountability...

HB304, which was passed by the 2010 General Assembly and signed by the Governor, states:

An annual justification that includes evidence that the student meets the participation criteria defined by the Virginia Department of Education shall be provided for each student considered for the Virginia Grade Level Alternative. Each Individual Education Program team shall review such justification and make the final determination as to whether or not the Virginia Grade Level Alternative is appropriate for that student. The superintendent and the school board chairman shall certify to the Board of Education, as part of certifying compliance with the Standards of Quality, that there is a justification in the Individual Education Program for every student who takes the Virginia Grade Level Alternative. Compliance with this requirement shall be monitored as a part of the special education monitoring process conducted by the Department of Education. The Board shall report to the Governor and General Assembly in its annual reports pursuant to § 22.1-18 any school division that is not in compliance with this requirement.

# What's new about VGLA?

- New for 2010/11
  - New VGLA participation form
  - New documentation requirements for eligibility (6 assessment samples)





New lens on:



- Grade level work
- Demonstration of depth of knowledge of the SOL

# Stricter scoring rules....

- Highest score that can be awarded =  $\underline{\mathbf{I}}$  if
  - Below grade level work or
  - No depth of knowledge of SOL content is shown





# Also new this year...

- All evidence must be collected under "testing conditions"
- New restrictions on types of evidence that may be included in the collection

# IEP teams ...

 Must reconvene and make VGLA participation decisions based on the new criteria and the new form.

### Resources:

"2010-11 VDOE VGLA Implementation Manual"

VDOE Superintendent's Memo #96-10 dated April 23, 2010

# FUTURE OF STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS IN VIRGINIA





# The future of VGLA

- VGLA math will only be available this year.
- VGLA reading will be available for two years – through school year 2011/12
- VGLA will continue to be available for science and history/social sciences



# New assessment

- VMAST Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (online assessment)
- VMAST math available SY 2011/12
  - Math grades 3 − 8
  - Algebra I
- VMAST reading available 2012/13
  - Reading grades 3 8
  - EOC English

# What is the VMAST?

Students participating in the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) are expected to learn grade level content; however, they may require additional time and a variety of instructional and assessment supports. Students participating in VMAST do not receive a modified curriculum; the achievement expectations are modified and difficulty is reduced by including tools and supports that allow participating students to access and demonstrate knowledge of grade-level content. Eligibility for VMAST must be determined separately for reading and mathematics.

# Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST)

# Reading Supports and Simplifications

- Reduce answer options from 4 to 3
- Arrange passage information using graphic organizers
- Reduce unnecessary language in passage
- Excerpt sections of passage and present with related items
- Highlight or underline text excerpts
- Reword questions using simpler structure or vocabulary

# Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST)

## Mathematics Supports and Simplifications

- Reduce answer options from 4 to 3
- Reword questions using a simpler structure or vocabulary
- Provide strategies reminders, hints, mnemonic devices
- Highlight or color code important information
- Add/alter graphics
- Simplify numbers
- Provide formulas
- Divide items into discrete steps

Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)					
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013		
	VGLA Writing	VGLA Writing	VGLA Writing		
Students With Disabilities	VGLA Reading	VGLA Reading			
(Special Education/ Section 504)	VGLA Mathematics				
,	VGLA History	VGLA History	VGLA History		
	VGLA Science	VGLA Science	VGLA Science		
ELL (Eng. Lang Learners)	VGLA Reading	VGLA Reading	VGLA Reading		
Virginia M	Iodified Achieveme	ent Standards Test (V	MAST)		
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013		
Special Education		VMAST Mathematics (Grades 3-8 and EOC Algebra I)	VMAST Mathematics (Grades 3-8 and EOC Algebra I)		
0			VMAST Reading (Grades 3-8 and EOC English: Reading)		

# Resources

- Virginia Department of Education website
   <a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml">http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml</a>
- Your child's teacher
- Consulting teacher
- Special education supervisor