

## Parent's Guide to Understanding the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program

<p><b>What is VAAP?</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)</a> is designed to evaluate the performance of students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and high school who are working on academic standards that have been reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity. These standards, referred to as the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL), are derived from the Standards of Learning (SOL). Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the portfolio-based VAAP for Reading, Math, and Science will be replaced with a new online assessment. History and Social Science will still be assessed through the portfolio based Collections of Evidence, and assessed based on the Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL).</p>
<p><b>What are VESOL?</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL)</a> are academic content standards derived from the Standards of Learning (SOL) that have been reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity. The VAAP assesses students who are being instructed on the VESOLs. Beginning 2021-22, the VESOL will be used to guide instruction provided by special educators to those students who meet the participation criteria for the VAAP.</p>
<p><b>How is participation determined?</b></p>	<p>VAAP eligibility criteria requires that the student receives a curriculum significantly reduced in complexity and depth and the student's disability impacts other aspects of their instruction, such as communication, behavior, and/or self-help skills. It is the combination of these academic challenges which precludes the student from being able to access grade level content, which would prevent them from earning the necessary standard and verified credits required for a standard or advanced studies diploma. Eligibility for VAAP participation is determined by the student's IEP team using the VAAP Participation Criteria. The VAAP Participation Criteria form along with the <a href="#">VAAP Participation Criteria and Determination of Significant Cognitive Disabilities Guidance document</a> will continue to be used by IEP teams to determine eligibility for participation in the VAAP.</p>
<p><b>What is the new format of the assessment?</b></p>	<p>The new VAAP is an assessment composed of multiple-choice items of varying complexity, beginning with easier items, and progressing to more complex items. Each item will offer three answer options. The assessment will be administered in an online or paper format. VDOE has developed a set of ten sample items from the reading, mathematics, and science content areas across various grade levels to be used by teachers, other school staff, and parents to familiarize them with item formats, the supports embedded in those items, the tools available in TestNav to accompany an online presentation, and the format of the paper presentation of test items. Sample items are not intended for student use. Both paper and online presentation sample items can be found on the <a href="#">VDOE website</a>. Click <a href="#">Sample Items</a> to download the application required to access the online items.</p>
<p><b>When will the VAAP be administered?</b></p>	<p>The VAAP administration window in LCPS is February 27 - June 2, 2023. For specific information regarding your child's testing, please reach out to your child's teacher directly.</p>
<p><b>Additional Resources</b></p>	<p>VDOE Website: <a href="#">Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)</a></p> <p>OAS Website: <a href="#">Virginia Alternate Assessment Program</a></p> <p><a href="#">VAAP Participation Criteria and Determination of Significant Cognitive Disabilities Guidance document</a></p> <p><a href="#">Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL)</a></p>