

New Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)

Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

1. What is the difference between the old VAAP and the new VAAP?

The old VAAP was a portfolio design where students submitted Collections of Evidence consisting of work samples in the assessed content areas. The new VAAP is composed of test questions with 3 answer choices and is delivered in an online and a paper format.

It is expected that most students regardless of the format used will be tested individually using multiple and flexible ways to demonstrate their knowledge. The support of assistive technology and alternative communications modes such as verbal responses, pointing, head movement, or eye gaze are allowable.

2. What content areas are included in the new VAAP?

The content areas assessed by the new VAAP are reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and high school and science in grades 5, 8, and high school. Each content area has academic standards based on the Standards of Learning (SOL) that have been reduced in complexity, breadth, and depth. These academic standards are called the [Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning](#) (VESOL).

3. Who is eligible to take the VAAP?

The VAAP is the statewide alternate assessment that is specifically designed to evaluate the achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and high school. Only students with significant cognitive disabilities who are eligible under IDEA and who meet the [VAAP participation criteria](#) may be assessed through the VAAP. Eligibility decisions can only be made by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Students with disabilities served by 504 Plans are not eligible for participation in VAAP.

4. Can we choose for our child to participate in the old VAAP?

No, the old VAAP is going away. The last administration of the old VAAP was in the 2020-2021 school year.

5. When does the new VAAP go into effect?

The implementation of the new VAAP begins in the 2021-2022 school year. Eligible students will take the test in the spring of 2022, and score reports will be available from your student's school division in late summer or early fall of 2022. Please keep in mind that students' scores on the new VAAP will not impact their promotion to the next grade or graduation from high school with an Applied Studies Diploma.

6. Where can I find additional information about the new VAAP?

Additional information about the new VAAP is available on the Virginia Department of Education website on the [VAAP webpage](#). This page provides training modules, participation criteria and guidelines, reading, mathematics and science VESOL, as well as VAAP sample and practice items.