



# Key Facts to Understanding VVAAS

## How does VVAAS benefit the Virginia education system?

*VVAAS provides a different way to view student growth across Virginia's divisions, schools, and classrooms. Reviewing several years of testing history may assist in determining content areas of strength or areas where additional support is needed. VVAAS growth is based on the expectation that students received an average year of instruction as compared to their peers across the state.*

VVAAS allows educators to:

- Monitor the growth of all groups of students from low-achieving to high-achieving, ensuring growth opportunities for all students.
- Make informed, data-driven decisions about where to focus resources to help students make greater growth and perform at higher levels.
- Identify collaborative partnerships (i.e., divisions/schools/subjects/grade-level teams) that yield different growth results to discuss effective practices.
- Facilitate "Consistent Conversations" between educators that are student-focused, and data driven.

## What assessment data is provided by the VDOE for VVAAS reports?

*Only the Standards of Learning Test results are used for VVAAS Growth modeling. VAAP and PALs are found only in the Student Report as part of their testing history.*

- The VDOE provided SOL test results from the 2015-16 school year through the end of the Spring Testing window each year. (Ex: Fall 23 release includes 2015- Spring 2023 test data).
- The VDOE provided VAAP test results from the 2015-16 school year through the end of the Spring Testing window each year. (Ex: Fall 23 release includes 2015- Spring 2023 test data).
- The VDOE provided PALs literacy screener results from the 2019-2020 school year through the end of the Spring Testing window each year. (Ex: Fall 23 release includes 2019- Spring 2023 test data).

## What are the differences between achievement and growth?

*Both achievement and growth must be considered together to get a complete picture of student learning. Achievement information indicates where students are academically, at a given point in time, while growth information indicates the amount of academic progress students have made.*

- Achievement measures: A student's performance at one single point in time, correlates with a student's demographics, compares student performance to a standard, and is critical to a student's post-secondary opportunities. Examples of achievement measures are an end of year SOL test or the SAT.
- Growth measures: A student's growth across time (i.e., across years), mitigates many impacts of student demographics, compares a student's performance to his/her own prior performance, and is critical to ensuring a student's future academic success.

# What are the key elements of VVAAS Growth Reports?

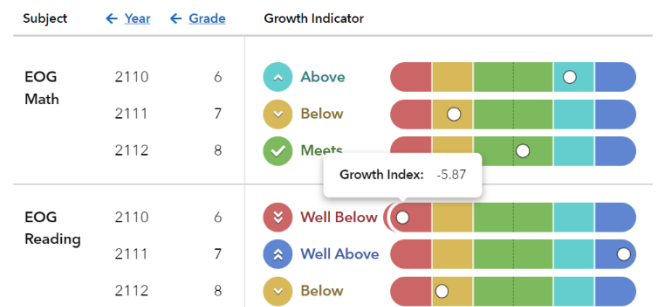
*Growth Reports provide a measure of academic growth based on SOL testing data for most tested grades and subjects. The academic growth calculation is a multi-step process using the predictive modeling approach to determine if a group of students met, exceeded, or did not meet growth.*

Key elements of the VVAAS Growth Report predictive modeling include the following:

- The model uses prior SOL testing results\* as predictors. By considering how all other students performed on the assessment in relation to their testing histories, the model calculates an expected score for each student based on their individual testing history.
- The model calculates the average from the expected score of a group of students in a school or division who took the same test within that year to identify the group's most likely expected score.
- An expected score is the score the student would make on the selected assessment if the student makes average or typical growth.
- The model calculates the group's average actual score.
- The model calculates the difference between the group's average expected score and the group's average actual score.
- \*Note: the actual score for the SOL test is included in the student's testing history as the student and the group of students have already taken the test when the expected scores are calculated. For more details on Growth report calculations, refer to the VVAAS Technical document.

## VVAAS Growth Report Sample

What are the trends in growth and achievement?



## What reports are available to educators?

*School divisions provide educators access the VVAAS reports, if you have questions about your level of access, please contact your division VVAAS lead.*

**Growth reports** - Provide reliable measures of academic growth at the school or division level for certain tested grades and subjects to see if students maintained expected growth. This report will help answer the question: How did our division and/or school help our students as a whole grow academically?

**Diagnostic reports** - Provide the ability to select data and view results for different groups of students. This report will help answer the question: Which student groups benefited most from our instruction?

**Student projection reports** - Provide an indicator of a student's likelihood of reaching future assessment milestones. This report will help answer the question: How can we plan for our current students' needs?