



Virginia Growth Assessments: Alternative Assessment Submission Form School Division Submission for Alternative Assessment(s) to the Virginia Growth Assessments

This form is to be completed by school divisions wanting to use an alternative assessment(s) to the Virginia Growth Assessments (VGA). [Senate Bill 345](#) and [House Bill 1076](#) passed by the 2024 General Assembly permits school boards to administer alternative assessments, aligned to the Standards of Learning (SOL), to the Virginia Growth Assessments during the 2024-2026 school years. The alternative assessments will not replace the end-of-year, federally required SOL tests in grades 3-8.

Senate Bill 345:

§ 1. Notwithstanding subsection C of § [22.1-253.13:3](#) of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Education shall permit school boards to administer, during the 2024–2026 school years, assessments as alternatives to the through-year growth assessment system established by the Board of Education pursuant to such provision of law, provided that any such alternative assessment is aligned to the Standards of Learning.

I. School Division Information

School Division Name:

School Year:

II. Alternative Assessment(s) Included in Submission

Name of Alternative Assessment(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Select the Alternative Assessment(s) to the VGA to which this submission applies:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3 Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4 Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 5 Mathematics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 6 Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 7 Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 8 Mathematics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3 Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4 Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 5 Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 6 Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 7 Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 8 Reading |

Will the school division administer the alternative assessment(s) at the end of the school year, in addition to the end-of-year, federally required SOL tests in grades 3-8?

- Yes, the alternative assessment(s) will be administered at the end of the school year.
- No, the alternative assessment(s) will only be administered at the beginning and middle of the school year.

III. Assurances

Interim or growth assessments are tools that can inform numerous decisions, from classroom-level instructional needs to division-level instructional strategies. Given the various ways in which interim or growth assessment data are used, these assessments must be developed through rigorous processes that ensure the assessments measure what they are supposed to (validity) and consistently measure what they are supposed to (reliability). Assessments must be developed with validity and reliability at the forefront and assessment providers must produce technical documentation regarding their assessment's validity and reliability using professional standards as guidance.

Additionally, when selecting assessments that are used nationally, alignment to Virginia standards needs to be considered. Virginia Growth Assessments are created solely on a Virginia's standards, but nationally developed assessments consider standards from all states. A national assessment may not fully cover Virginia's standards or may cover the standards at different grade levels. Assessment providers must review Virginia's standards in comparison to their items and test blueprints and must be able to provide in depth information on how their assessment covers Virginia's standards at each grade level. More information on the 2023 Mathematics Standards of Learning, including Understanding the Standards resources, can be found [here](#). To support reviews of alternative assessments, more information on the 2023 Mathematics Standards of Learning, including Understanding the Standards resources, can be found [here](#). More information on the 2024 English Standards of Learning can be found [here](#).

Other factors in selecting an interim or growth assessment that should be considered include the professional learning they offer to educators on how to use the assessment data and the family/parent reports that are provided to ensure that the assessment data will be communicated and used effectively by educators and families.

Understanding the above components of assessment development and use, the school division assures that:

- The school division reviewed the assessment vendors' assurance form and documentation provided to the Department to determine the alternative assessment(s) meet the requirements and needs of the school division to ensure the alternative assessments are aligned to the SOL.
- As provided by the Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-253.13:3](#), subsection C, the division will administer alternative assessment(s) at least once at the beginning-of-year and once in the middle of the school year, as the SOL tests will serve as the end-of-year assessment.
- As provided by the Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-253.13:3](#), subsection C, the assessment vendor will provide the school division with individual student growth scores over the course of the school year.
- As provided by the Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-253.13:3](#), subsection F, school divisions will provide a parent/family report to parents with their students' results as soon as practicable after the assessment is administered.

- As provided by the Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-253.13:3](#), subsection C, the school division will provide training for teachers and principals on how to interpret and use student growth data from such assessments to improve reading and mathematics instruction in grades three through eight throughout the school year.
 - As required by the current [Accreditation System](#), the school division will provide to the Department through the end-of-year data collections the number and percentage of third grade students that did not meet and met/exceeded yearly growth targets by school. This will be submitted to the Department via the Single Sign-in Web Systems (SSWS).¹
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IV. Alternative Assessment Details

Describe the school division's review and selection of the alternative assessment documentation.

Describe how the school division will work with the vendor to provide consistent individual student growth scores over the course of the school year if the school division will **only** administer the end-of-year, federally required SOL tests in grades 3-8.

¹ The Virginia Board of Education is currently in the process of updating the regulations for the Standards of Accreditation. If the proposed Standards of Accreditation are finalized and the new School Performance and Support Framework do not require a third-grade growth measure, school divisions may no longer be required to submit this information to the Department.

Describe how the school division will provide parents/families with a parent/family report and in which languages.

V. Signatures

Division Director of Testing (Signature):

Division Director of Testing (Print):

Division Superintendent (Signature):

Division Superintendent (Print):

For VDOE Use: