

HB1076/SB435

Alternatives Through-Year Growth Assessment System



Bill Patron: Delegate Sam Rasoul/Senator Tara A. Durant

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Allows local school boards to administer assessments as alternatives to the through-year growth assessment system established by the Virginia Board of Education during the 2024-2026 school years, as long as such alternative assessments are aligned to the Standards of Learning (SOL).

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

School divisions have the option to use an alternative assessment aligned to the SOL in lieu of the Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA).

School divisions will need to determine if their school division would benefit from one of the available alternative assessments. Next, school divisions should determine if they have local funds to purchase and train for an alternative through-year assessment program. If school divisions choose to use an alternative assessment for their growth assessment requirements, they should complete the application and approval process from the Virginia Department of Education.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- The Virginia Department of Education has provided a vendor submission and application form and a division submission form to use for alternative assessments. These forms and the submission form process can be reviewed [here](#).

WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- The VDOE will be updating the [VGA: Alternative Assessments page](#) with vendor forms and documentation regularly.

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. School divisions must determine if their school division would benefit from one of the available alternative assessments. School divisions should encourage their selected vendor to submit their forms and documentation to the VDOE no later than August 15.
2. School divisions must determine if they have the local funds to support the alternative assessment before completing their own usage plan to the Department.
3. School divisions must review the documentation submitted by assessment vendors to determine which assessment vendor best meets the needs of their division. All vendor information can be found [here](#).
4. In their review, school divisions must consider the alternative assessment's alignment to the SOL. During their review, divisions should also consider other components offered by alternative assessments, such as parent reports and training, to ensure they are selecting the alternative assessment that most benefits their division, families, and community.

5. Once the division determines the alternative assessment they will use, divisions must complete the [Alternative Assessment Submission Form](#) to indicate which alternative assessment they will be using and submit the form to VDOE (divisions should work with the alternative assessment vendors to procure the alternative assessment, if needed).
6. Divisions must also work with the selected alternative assessment vendor and ensure all educators are prepared to administer the alternative assessment and use the alternative assessment data to inform instructional decisions.

WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

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