



**#132-22**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Education  
Superintendent's Memo #132-22**

**DATE:** June 24, 2022  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Passing Scores Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education for the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program in Reading, Mathematics, and Science**

On Wednesday, June 15, 2022, the Virginia Board of Education (Board) adopted passing scores for the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) tests in reading, mathematics, and science that were administered for the first time in spring 2022. The VAAP tests are administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to access the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and who have been found by their Individualized Education Program (IEP) committees to meet the criteria to participate in an alternate assessment. The VAAP tests are based on academic content standards derived from the SOL in reading, mathematics, and science that have been reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity. These content standards are referred to as the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL).

Based on the Board's action, eligible students will have to achieve a scaled score of at least 740 to earn a performance level of *pass/proficient* and a scaled score of at least 780 to achieve a performance level of *pass/advanced* for reading, mathematics, and science. Each test is comprised of 30 items that count towards a student's score. These scaled scores are equivalent to the following number of items correct on the test forms reviewed by the educator committees convened to recommend passing scores to the Board:

**Mathematics**

Grade 3 mathematics: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 23 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 4 mathematics: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 24 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 5 mathematics: 13 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 24 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 6 mathematics: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 23 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 7 mathematics: 14 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 24 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 8 mathematics: 13 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 24 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

High School mathematics: 13 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 22 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

**Reading**

Grade 3 reading: 10 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 22 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 4 reading: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 20 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 5 reading: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 23 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 6 reading: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 21 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 7 reading: 12 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 21 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 8 reading: 14 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 23 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

High School reading: 14 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 21 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

**Science**

Grade 5 science: 13 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 23 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

Grade 8 science: 16 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 26 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

High School science: 14 out of 30 for *pass/proficient* and 24 out of 30 for *pass/advanced*

It is important to remember that the number of items correct listed above applies only to the versions of the tests that were reviewed by the educator committees convened for standard setting. Other forms of the VAAP tests will be statistically equated to the “standard setting” test form to ensure that the same level of achievement is required of all students taking a test for a particular course. As a result of the equating process, the number of items a student is required to answer correctly to be considered *pass/proficient* or *pass/advanced* on a particular version of the test may fluctuate slightly. However, the requirement to earn a

scaled score of at least 740 for a performance level of *pass/proficient* and a scaled score of at least 780 for a performance level of *pass/advanced* is applicable to all versions of the VAAP tests.

### For more information

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the student assessment staff at [Student\\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2102.

JB/SLR/ss