



#216-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #216-22**

DATE: September 16, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Adoption of Special Provisions Regarding Accreditation Indicators**

At the August 17, 2022 Board of Education meeting, the Board adopted special provisions to:

1. Alter the inclusion of Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) failing test records from the determination of the performance level for the student group “students with disabilities” in the *Achievement Gap-English and Achievement Gap-Mathematics* indicators for accreditation year 2022-2023, when the performance level for that student group is a level three and the rating is based solely on failing VAAP test records; and
2. Add an additional qualifying criteria to the College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index (CCCRI) beginning in 2022-2023, to be used for accreditation year 2023-2024.

VAAP Failing Test Records in Accreditation Year 2022-2023

Prior to 2021-2022, the VAAP was a portfolio-based assessment where students submitted work samples to be evaluated using a state-developed rubric. However, during the 2021-2022 school year, a new multiple-choice assessment replaced the portfolio assessment in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science, as required by the United States Department of Education (USED).

Since 2021-2022 was the first year that the VAAP tests were administered in its new format for reading and mathematics, there was not a previous score from which to measure or calculate growth, which is a component of the combined rate. Therefore, the combined rate for the 2021-2022 school year data for grades 3-8 reading and mathematics does not include a growth component for students who took the VAAP assessments.

In order to mitigate the impact of not being able to calculate growth on failing VAAP assessments in the “students with disabilities” student group for accreditation year 2022-2023 only, if failing VAAP scores are the sole reason for a level three designation in the “students with disabilities” group, then the performance level will be reassigned based on a combined rate calculation that does not include the failing VAAP assessments. However, only the performance level will be changed. The *Accreditation Detail Report* found in the Single Sign-on Web Systems (SSWS) and the publicly reported combined rate data on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) School Quality Profiles will be based on all assessments given, including all VAAP scores.

Addition to Qualifying Criteria for the College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index (CCCRI)

Participation in a Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) program was added as a qualifying criteria for the CCCRI beginning in accreditation year 2023-2024. A qualifying student will have successfully completed three years of JROTC coursework and earned an approved industry credential (e.g., Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test (ASVAB), JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills Assessment, Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth Examination, College and Work Readiness Assessment (CWRA+), or National Career Readiness Certificate Assessment).

As a reminder, the CCCRI will be included in the determination of school accreditation for the first time in accreditation year 2023-2024 based on data from the 2022-2023 school year. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, JROTC participation data will be collected on the Student Record Collection (CTE Finisher Code = 7).

For more information

Questions regarding accreditation can be emailed to [Amy Siepka](#), Director of the Office of Accountability.

Questions about the Student Record Collection can be emailed to [Brittney Kanard](#) in the Office of Data Services.

Questions about the JROTC Program can be emailed to [LaVeta Nutter](#) in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

JB/ABS/abs