

Exceptions to One Percent Cap on the VAAP Survey

Federal regulations limit the number of proficient and advanced proficient scores on alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards within the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) that may be counted toward Virginia's Accountability System to one percent of the tested grade levels.

This regulation is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities participate fully in the standards and accountability under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and that schools receive credit for making progress with these students.

The one percent cap is determined by dividing the number of VAAP proficient/advanced proficient scores by the total number of students at tested grade levels (grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11). The number of students at tested grade levels is determined by the September 30 fall membership reported to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) by each school division.

Sample Calculation of Virginia's Accountability System Cap:

Virginia County

16,450 Fall Membership, Grades 3-8, 11

x 0.01

164 = Cap for Virginia's Accountability System

Sample Consequences:

251 Passed VAAP-English

-164 Cap for Virginia's Accountability System

87 = Scores to be reassigned for Virginia's Accountability System

Reassigned scores count for Virginia's Accountability System purposes only. They do not affect the student or the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Reassigned scores do not affect graduation and a parent only gets notification of the student's original score.

Your division may complete the following online form to request an exception to the one percent cap on the projected number of proficient or advanced scores on the VAAP that may be included in Virginia's Accountability System determinations.

Please Note: Divisions may apply for multiple exception options.

Questions can be directed to Deborah Johnson at the Virginia Department of Education. Mrs. Johnson's contact information is as follows: (804) 371-2725 or Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov.

Demographic Data

1. Name of person completing the application
2. Phone number of person completing the application
3. E-mail address of person completing the application
4. The proficient and advanced scores on the VAAP are projected to be more than one percent of fall membership in the grades tested (grades 3- 8, 11) for the 2015-2016 administration and my division is therefore applying for an exception to the one percent cap. *Please note that your application may include the selection of multiple exception options.

Yes

No (If No, your application is complete. Please click "Save" to record your responses and then exit the application using the SWSS Menu link or Logout link above.)

Demographic Data - Projected Rates

1. The superintendent of your division has directed you to apply for this exception and has certified that the supporting data are accurate.

Yes

No

2. Did your division take advantage of the flexible testing option for high school students taking the VAAP?

Yes

No (skip to question 5)

3. If yes, what high school grades were tested using the VAAP for English?
4. If yes, what high school grades were tested using the VAAP for Mathematics?

5. Division September 30, 2015 Fall Membership total for the tested grades (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11). If your division is testing VAAP at different grades (flexible testing schedule) in high school, please include the fall membership totals for those grades.
6. Total number of students taking the VAAP for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. If your division is testing at different grades (flexible testing schedule) in high school, please include the number of those students as well.
7. Division's projected VAAP participation rate: Calculation - Question 6 total/Question 5 total * 100 = projected participation rate. (Example - 35 students in VAAP/1300 in tested Fall Membership Grades = $.0269 * 100 = 2.69\%$)

Exception Option 1: Small Student Population

Because your school division has a very small total student population a few students have a significant impact on the percentages. Your division must meet all of the following three criteria:

1. Fall Membership for the tested grades is less than or equal to 1,500 students.
2. Less than or equal to 15 students in the VAAP
3. Division VAAP participation rate is less than or equal to two percent

1. Your division is applying for the Option 1 exception:

Yes

No - Skip to Next Exception Option

Exception Option 2: Foster/Adoptive Parents

Your division has a disproportionately high number of foster care parents or adoptive parents of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

1. Your division is applying for the Option 2 exception:

Yes

No - Skip To Next Exception

2. Please list the total number of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in the VAAP and who are from foster care or adoptive families. * Please note you may be asked to supply specific State Testing Identification (STI) numbers upon request.

Exception Option 3: Local Military Base.

A local military base includes your division on its list of compassionate assignments, and a significant number of service members have children with significant cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in your division.

1. Your division is applying for the Option 3 exception:

Yes

No

2. Please list the total number of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in the VAAP and whose parents are in the armed services at a local military base near your division. * Please note you may be asked to supply specific STI numbers upon request.