VAAP

Virginia Alternate Assessment Program

Frequently Asked Questions 2016–2017

Frequently Asked Questions by Teachers

Q1. **What type of student would take the VAAP?**

The VAAP is an appropriate assessment for a student with significant cognitive disabilities who has a current IEP. The student's present level of performance will indicate the need for extensive, direct instruction and/or intervention in a curriculum based on the Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL). This student requires intensive, frequent, and individualized instruction in a variety of settings to demonstrate interaction and achievement. The high school student appropriate for the VAAP is working toward educational goals other than those prescribed for a Modified Standard Diploma, Standard Diploma (with or without credit accommodations), or Advanced Studies Diploma.

Q2. **In which grade levels can the VAAP be used?**

The VAAP is available for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have an IEP in grades 3 through 8 and high school. Divisions have the option to either continue the submission of required VAAP content areas in grade 11 only or to develop a schedule in which one or more content areas are submitted in grades 9, 10, or 11. For example, the division may determine that VAAP *Science* will be collected in grade 9, *History/Social Science* in grade 10, and *Reading, Writing*, and *Mathematics* in grade 11. Please consult your DDOT for your division's schedule.

Q3. **Can students use accommodations on VAAP evidence?**

Yes. A student may submit evidence using accommodations as specified in the student's current IEP. Evidence obtained using hand-over-hand assistance (or full physical assistance) may not be used to demonstrate student achievement.

Q4. **What supporting documentation must be submitted with the Collection of Evidence?**

A completed *2016–2017 VAAP Content Area Cover Sheet* for each content area being submitted and a completed and signed *2016–2017 VAAP Affidavit of Student Performance* must be included in each Collection of Evidence (COE). If an Interpreter was used during the collection of evidence, the signed *Interpreter's Affidavit* must be included in the COE. Also, each piece of evidence must have a completed SEI Tag.

Q5. **Can the VAAP Collection of Evidence be reviewed by parents and other school personnel?**

Yes. While the COE is being developed, it is available for review and feedback by the student, parents, and other school personnel as needed; however, the collection must not be changed or altered in any way. The Virginia Department of Education recommends that the COE be reviewed in the presence of an administrator or designee. The COE should never be sent home for review.

After the COE has been scored, it is regarded as a scholastic record. Upon request, the results and the COE must be accessible to the student's teacher(s), parents, and the participating student. However, in accordance with requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEIA), if the student is 18, unless his/her parents have retained rights to the student's scholastic records, the student will need to give permission/agree for the parents to view the record.

NOTE: For retention and disposition of VAAP COE after administration, refer to the *Records Retention and Disposition Schedule General Schedule 21* series 000239 and 000240. General Schedule 21 is available on the Library of Virginia Web site at:

www.lva.virginia.gov/agencies/records/sched_local/GS-21.pdf

Q6. **What should I do if a student taking the VAAP transfers between school divisions during the school year?**

In accordance with Testing Memo Number 689, dated February 14, 2008, the transfer of a student's education record should be formally requested by the school division enrolling the student. Once the education record has been requested, the transferring division should forward the student's COE to the school division enrolling the student. Care should be taken to ensure that all student work samples include:

- grading with correct and incorrect answers indicated;
- completed SEI Tags on each piece of evidence; and
- a completed affidavit signed by school staff to verify that all student work was completed under the supervision of school staff and is the student's individual work.

The school division transferring the student must maintain a copy of all student work and supporting documentation sent to the school division enrolling the student. Copies should be maintained as determined by the Division Director of Testing and Records Manager until the end of the assessment period.

Q7. **How is the VAAP scored?**

The VAAP COE is submitted to the school division and scored locally. Scorers receive training on the process of applying the scoring rubric and scoring rules to submitted evidence, use of the online scoring system, and other information pertinent to scoring the VAAP. The VAAP rubric and scoring rules are available in Section 6 of this manual.

Q8. **Why is my local school division scoring the VAAP and what is the online system?**

Scoring VAAP entries is the joint responsibility of the local school division, the testing contractor, and the Virginia Department of Education. The scoring process will involve local scorers examining submitted evidence for specific content area ASOL, applying the scoring rubric and scoring rules, and assigning a value to the evidence presented in a holistic manner. Once all evidence submitted for a specific VAAP entry has been scored, scorers will enter their scores of student performance in the online scoring system. The testing contractor and the Virginia Department of Education, via an online scoring system, will calculate performance levels and provide online reports.

Q9. **What is a VAAP audit?**

After the submission of local VAAP scores, the testing contractor will randomly select a percentage of submitted COE from each school division for audit. The purpose of the VAAP audit is to ensure that local scorers are correctly applying the scoring rubric and related scoring tools to submitted evidence.

Q10. **How will I know if my school or student has been selected for an audit of his or her VAAP?**

The Division Director of Testing will be notified within the web-based PearsonAccess system that a student's COE within the division has been selected for VAAP audit.

Q11. **If a student fails his/her VAAP assessment, can he/she be reassessed with the same ASOLs?**

No. In the content areas of *Reading*, *Writing*, *Mathematics*, and *Science*, students are not allowed to repeat any previously assessed ASOLs. All students must be assessed on ASOLs in the grade level enrollment.

In the content area of *History/Social Science*, if an ASOL has multiple bullets, students may be assessed one time on each of the separate ASOL bullets. A student may be reassessed with the same ASOL, but must be assessed with a different bullet within that ASOL.

Q12. **If a student is retained, does that student have to be reassessed in VAAP again?**

If a student is retained in the same grade level, he/she would only reassess in the VAAP content area which received a failing score. For example, an 8th grade student failed the VAAP *Reading*, VAAP *Science*, and VAAP *History* assessments. The student passed the VAAP *Mathematics* and VAAP *Writing* assessments. The next school year the student is retained in Grade 8. During the retention school year, the student would be reassessed only in VAAP *Reading*, VAAP *Science*, and VAAP *History*.

If the student had passed all the VAAP assessments during the initial Grade 8 school year, he/she would not be reassessed in any VAAP content area if retained in Grade 8.