

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: O

Date: July 26, 2012

Title	Report on Changes to the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) for the 2012-2013 School Year		
Presenter	Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement Mr. John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Special Education and Student Services		
E-mail	Shelley.Loving-Ryder@doe.virginia.gov John.Eisenberg@doe.virginia.gov	Phone	804-225-2102 804-225-2711

Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
X	Goal 2: Accountability of Student Learning
	Goal 3: Nurturing Young Learners
X	Goal 4: Strong Literacy and Mathematics Skills
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Teachers and Administrators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 2: Changing the content measured by the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science will help schools and school divisions increase the academic success of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Goal 4: Changing the content measured by the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics will support the development of literacy and numeracy skills for students with disabilities.

The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) is intended to assess the achievement of students

with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment program. A compilation of student work called a Collection of Evidence is prepared for students participating in VAAP. Work samples used for the Collections of Evidence are intended to demonstrate the student's achievement of the Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL) which are based on the Standards of Learning (SOL) but reduced in depth and complexity. Typically when new SOL are adopted by the Board of Education, new ASOL for students participating in VAAP are also developed.

In 2011 Virginia joined a consortium of 13 states that are working together to develop a new type of alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. This consortium, called The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment System Consortium, is developing assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics which will be available for administration in the 2014-2015 school year. The DLM assessments will administered online and will be computer adaptive so that students taking the assessments will be provided with items/tasks that are appropriate to their ability levels. In addition, the assessments will be instructionally embedded so that students will participate throughout the year rather than being assessed at one point in time. While most students will be able to take the assessment online, teachers will be able to provide an alternate method of testing for students who cannot access the assessment online. The content standards for the DLM assessments, which are based on the Common Core State Standards and aligned to Virginia's SOL, are referred to as the "essential elements" and have been developed to provide access to students at even the lowest levels of cognitive functioning.

In 2012-2013 new assessments in reading, writing, and science, based on the SOL adopted by the Board in 2010, will be administered for the first time. As a result of this change, new ASOL based on these new SOL must be used for the development of VAAP collections in these content areas. In preparation for the transition to the new DLM assessments in 2014-2015, the ASOL for reading and writing used to develop the VAAP collections in 2012-2013 will be based on the DLM essential elements. In addition, based on feedback from school divisions, the mathematics ASOL used in 2012-2013 for the VAAP collections will also be revised to reflect the DLM content. Because the DLM essential elements do not include science, the ASOL for science will be based on the SOL adopted by the Board in 2010. The history ASOL will remain unchanged.

Summary of Important Issues:

Information about the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment System Consortium and the changes to VAAP for 2012-2013 will be provided.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

N/A.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board receive the report.