

Virginia Alternate Assessment Program: School Division Assurances for Alternate Assessment Participation, 2020-2021

To justify the need to exceed the one percent cap on participation in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP), school divisions who anticipated exceeding the one percent cap on participation in the VAAP had to provide to the Virginia Department of Education assurances that the division followed the state's criteria and participation guidelines for the spring assessment window that opened on March 22, 2021, including that:

- IEP Teams identified students with the most significant cognitive disabilities following state criteria and participation guidelines;
- Excessive absences; social, cultural or economic differences; identification in a specific disability category; specific special education placement or services; anticipated scores on Standards of Learning tests; or concerns for accreditation calculations were not considered in the determination that the student will be assessed with the VAAP;
- Students participating in the VAAP have been instructed in a modified curriculum aligned to state standards (i.e., Virginia Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL)).
- Student IEPs include a statement that addresses why the student cannot participate in the regular assessment; why the particular assessment selected is appropriate for the student, including how the child meets the criteria for the alternate assessment; and how the child's participation in VAAP will impact the child's promotion and/or graduation with a standard, or advanced studies diploma; or other matters;
- There is written confirmation that IEP Teams informed parents of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities of the implications of participation in the alternate assessment;
- The division will seek to measure the achievement of at least 95 percent of all students, including students with disabilities in all grades for which assessment is required; and
- There is written confirmation that it has no disproportionality in the percentage of students in any subgroup taking the alternate assessment, or if disproportionality does exist it has plans to address any disproportionality.

The following table lists all school divisions that do anticipate participation rates on the VAAP to be more than one percent of the total student population (fall membership) in the grades tested (grades 3-8 and high school) for Math or English/Reading or (grades 5, 8, and high school) for Science for the 2020-2021 administration.

School Divisions that Anticipate VAAP Participation Rates to Be More Than One Percent for the 2020-2021 Administration

School Division	Assurance Statement
Accomack County	Yes
Albemarle County	Yes
Alleghany County	Yes
Amelia County	Yes
Amherst County	Yes
Appomattox County	Yes
Augusta County	Yes
Bath County	Yes
Bedford County	Yes
Botetourt County	Yes
Bristol City	Yes
Brunswick County	Yes
Buchanan County	Yes
Buckingham County	Yes
Buena Vista City	Yes
Campbell County	Yes
Caroline County	Yes
Carroll County	Yes

School Division	Assurance Statement
Charles City County	<p>CCPS is providing continued targeted assistance to IEP Teams when determining alternative assessment participation. Of the nine files reviewed, three did not include the specific state criteria regarding alternative assessment. In all three cases, CCPS will reconvene the IEP Teams to determine the most appropriate state testing participation and ensure all supporting and required documentation is found with the files. Ongoing targeted assistance is evidenced through the CCPS Corrective Action Plan essential actions and support from the VCU TTAC Specialists assigned within the division. Ongoing file and compliance reviews completed by administration were halted during the mandated school closures associated with COVID-19, and CCPS intends to resume all review and compliance check procedures immediately.</p>
Charlottesville City	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
Chesapeake City	<p>Since 2016, IEP Teams have benefitted from ongoing professional development and individualized support devised to enhance implementation of the VAAP. Teams have been asked to move with careful intention when considering student eligibility for the VAAP. In addition, the teams typically move forward with notable care and caution when considering eligibility for participation in the VAAP. IEP teams routinely examine a myriad of sources prior to determining whether the VAAP is the most appropriate assessment option for each child. Case managers are tasked with gathering a vast array of data sources to support team decisions. Doing so ensures that the team makes accurate, informed decisions for each and every student. Over the past four years, Department of Exceptional Learning (DEL) and Department of Assessment and Accountability (DAA) staff have worked ardently to reduce the number of VAAP participation rates. They have also spent time assisting case managers to assist them in crafting IEPs that fulfill all of the VDOE requirements. The approach utilized involves ongoing professional development designed to train both teachers and IEP Teams on all critical components that must be included in each and every IEP. This was achieved in part by citywide in-services facilitated by DEL and DAA to which attendance has been strong. Multiple checks and balances are in place. However, short of scouring and scrutinizing more than 300 IEPs, it would be difficult to make the assertion that all IEPs generated for each and every VAAP participant are in full compliance. DEL and DAA staff have conducted numerous on-site audits throughout the division, particularly in 2020. A significant amount of time has been dedicated to the endeavor as they review cumulative records alongside the IEPs. This team confers immediately thereafter with both case managers and building administrators alike. The meetings allow them to provide feedback that lends to increased efficacy and improved identification, implementation, and documentation pertaining to all things VAAP.</p>

School Division	Assurance Statement
Chesterfield County	Yes
Colonial Heights City	Yes
Covington City	Yes
Craig County	Yes
Culpeper County	Yes
Cumberland County	Yes
Danville City	Yes
Dickenson County	Yes
Dinwiddie County	Yes
Essex County	Yes
Fauquier County	Yes
Floyd County	Yes
Fluvanna County	Yes
Franklin City	Franklin City Public Schools assures that the eligibility process for determining VAAP participation is based on State and Federal guidelines. All students participating in the state assessment have documented cognitive disabilities that impact the ability to successfully participate in the Standards of Learning Curriculum. These students require extensive modifications and accommodations to access the curriculum and require alternative means to show mastery of the taught curriculum.
Franklin County	Yes
Frederick County	Yes
Fredericksburg City	Yes

School Division	Assurance Statement
Grayson County	Yes
Greensville County	Yes
Halifax County	Yes
Hampton City	Yes
Henrico County	Yes
Henry County	Yes
Hopewell City	Yes
Isle of Wight County	Yes
King and Queen County	Yes
King George County	Yes
King William County	Yes
Lancaster County	Yes
Lee County	Yes
Louisa County	Yes
Lunenburg County	Yes
Lynchburg City	Yes
Manassas Park City	Yes
Martinsville City	Yes
Mathews County	Yes

School Division	Assurance Statement
Mecklenburg County	Yes
Middlesex County	Yes
Nelson County	Yes
Newport News City	Yes
Norfolk City	Yes
Northampton County	Yes
Northumberland County	Yes
Norton City	Yes
Nottoway County	Yes
Orange County	Yes
Page County	Yes
Patrick County	Yes
Petersburg City	Yes
Pittsylvania County	Yes
Poquoson City	Yes
Portsmouth City	Yes
Powhatan County	Yes
Prince Edward County	Yes
Pulaski County	Yes

School Division	Assurance Statement
Rappahannock County	Yes
Richmond City	Yes
Roanoke City	Yes
Roanoke County	Yes
Rockbridge County	Yes
Russell County	Yes
Scott County	Yes
Smyth County	Yes
Southampton County	Yes
Stafford County	Yes
Suffolk City	Yes
Surry County	Yes
Sussex County	Yes
Tazewell County	Yes
Virginia Beach City	Yes
Washington County	Yes
West Point	Yes
Westmoreland County	Yes
Williamsburg-James City County	Yes

School Division	Assurance Statement
Wise County	Yes
Wythe County	Yes
York County	Yes

The following list includes all school divisions that do not anticipate participation rates on the VAAP to be more than one percent of the total student population (fall membership) in the grades tested (grades 3-8 and high school) for Math or English/Reading or (grades 5, 8, and high school) for Science for the 2020-2021 administration. Assurance statements are not applicable.

- Alexandria City
- Arlington County
- Bland County
- Charlotte County
- Clarke County-
- Colonial Beach
- Fairfax County
- Falls Church City
- Galax City
- Giles County
- Gloucester County
- Goochland County
- Greene County
- Hanover County
- Harrisonburg City
- Highland County
- Lexington City
- Loudoun County
- Madison County
- Manassas City
- Montgomery County
- New Kent County
- Prince George County
- Prince William County
- Radford City
- Richmond County
- Rockingham County
- Salem City
- Shenandoah County
- Spotsylvania County
- Staunton City
- Warren County
- Waynesboro City
- Winchester City