

Assessment Updates

Students with Disabilities

Virginia Department of Education
State Special Education Advisory Committee
December 8, 2011

Assessment Updates

- Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST)
- Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)
- Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)
- Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)
- Special Accommodations for Standard of Learning Tests (SOL)

VMAST Mathematics Field Test

Sample

- 2307 students participated across grades 3-8 and Algebra I.
- Students with Learning Disabilities and Other Health Impairments represented disability categories of the majority of participants.
- All participants were identified by school divisions as likely members of the VMAST population based on the VMAST participation criteria.

VMAST Mathematics Field Test

What We've Learned ... Preliminary Results

- VMAST mathematics tests have appropriate content coverage according to the test blueprints.
- VMAST items appear to be accessible for students likely to be included in the 2⁰% populations
- VMAST supports and simplifications such as simplified wording, simplified formats such as tables and bulleted lists and hint boxes appear to benefit students

VMAST Mathematics Field Test

What We've Learned ... Preliminary Results

- VMAST items that require students to enter answers appear to be more difficult for students.
- VMAST participants displayed difficulty with the meaning of terms, objects, formula and text heavy items.

VMAST Mathematics

- VMAST Mathematics test will be operational 2011-2012.
- IEP committees must identify eligible students according to the VMAST participation criteria.
- Students identified as disabled under Section 504 are not allowed to participate.

Important VMAST Issues

- Passing Algebra I scores may be used for verified credit.
- Passing grade 8 mathematics scores may be used for numeracy certification for the Modified Standard Diploma.
- Proficient scores can be used in AYP calculations can not exceed 2% of students in tested grades. Specific calculation formulas are still under discussion.

VMAST Reading Field Test

- A census field test will be conducted for VMAST reading grades 3-8 and EOC English Reading in spring 2012.
- All school divisions will be asked to identify students with disabilities most likely to be in the VMAST population.

VSEP Approval/ Denial Process

New for this year

- The 2011-2012 *Intent to Participate* form will be submitted to assessment staff at the Virginia Department of Education staff for review.
- The purpose of this review is to determine if school divisions have selected appropriate students for participation based on the participation criteria and the justification statement provided.

VSEP Approval/Denial Process

- The Evaluation Plan/Worksheet will be reviewed at the school division.
- The purpose of this review is to determine that the products and methods planned to collect will defend the Standards of Learning and comply with scoring rules.

Expanded VSEP

- Under special circumstances, the Virginia Department of Education Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement will permit for a **SMALL** number of eligible students with disabilities in grades 3-8 who are unable to access the SOL Mathematics assessment to submit a Course Work Compilation to demonstrate knowledge of mathematics content.

Expanded VSEP

- All VSEP evidence and scoring rules will apply to the Course Work Compilation submitted under expanded VSEP.
- Special permission request packets are due to the Virginia Department of Education by October 7, 2011.

VGLA 2011-2012

- VGLA mathematics is no longer available.
- VGLA continues to be available for students with disabilities in reading, writing, science, and history/social science.
- VGLA reading will continue to be available to students with limited English proficiency.

VGLA 2012-2013

- VGLA **mathematics and reading** will no longer be available for students with disabilities.
- VGLA will continue to be available for students with disabilities in science, writing, and history/social science.
- VGLA will continue to be available for LEP students in reading.

Virginia Board of Education

The Virginia Board of Education has agreed that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Virginia Department of Education can implement a VAAP schedule similar to that used in 2010-2011.

- Collections of Evidence will be submitted for scoring May 2, 2012.
- Standard setting committees will meet to submit recommended cut scores to the Board in early June 2012.

2011-2012 VAAP Flexibility Option

- Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year divisions may:
 - submit all required VAAP content areas for students in grade 11 or
 - develop a schedule in which one or more VAAP content areas are submitted in grades 9,10, or 11.

2011-2012 VAAP Flexibility Option

- The purpose of allowing the submission of VAAP collections of evidence across grade levels is
 - to reduce the anticipated burden on grade 11 teachers and
 - to increase the opportunity for students to participate in transition programs and activities as they prepare to exit high school.

2011-2012 VAAP Flexibility Option

- A number of school divisions submitted VAAP High School Collection of Evidence Submission Schedule through an online survey
- 13 school divisions chose to exercise VAAP flexibility during the 2011-2012 school year
- 117 school divisions chose not to exercise the VAAP flexibility during the 2011-2012 school year

Special Assessment Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

- A small number of students may require accommodations beyond those listed in the Test Implementation Manuals.
- Requests are submitted electronically to the VDOE by the Division Director of Testing according to established due dates.
- Requests are reviewed based on individual access, standardization and test security.

Questions

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