

**Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)
VAAP Visually Impaired/Blind (VI/B) Accessibility Study
Teacher Evaluation Survey
Spring 2021
Summary of Participants & Results**

Educators: $n = 4$
Response Rate: 100%
Completion Rate: 100%
Recorded Date: 5-7-2021

Survey Participants

In May of 2021, VDOE personnel recruited 4 teachers to participate in a review of the accessibility of the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP). All 4 were teachers of the visually impaired from four different regions, each with over 10 years experience as a teacher of visually impaired students ($M = 17$ years; *Median* = 15.5 years; *Range* = 10 to 27 years). All teachers had experience with the visually impaired population across grades, ages, and content areas, and experience with both Braille and low vision incidence students as well as students with significant cognitive disabilities. No information was provided about the teachers' highest degree earned, certificates, or endorsements, or race/ethnicity. Three of the teachers were female. Teachers' personal statements highlighted expertise in teaching the visually impaired as well as students with significant cognitive disabilities, adapting materials and the use of assistive technology for students in the visually impaired population, and accommodations and accessibility of items for the visually impaired population.

Survey Method and Data Collection

We designed the short survey to gather feedback from educators on the accessibility of the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) test items and the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL) for students with significant cognitive disabilities, particularly those experiencing visual impairment or blindness. The survey consisted of four selected-response prompts, each with dichotomous response options, and one constructed-response/open-ended prompts designed to elicit constructive feedback associated with each selected-response prompt. A fourth constructed-response/open-ended prompt at the end of the survey asked participating educators to give any additional comments about their experience as part of the study. The survey was conducted securely via the University of Oregon's Qualtrics Survey Software (<https://oregon.qualtrics.com>), with all responses collected and stored anonymously to encourage honesty and constructive/critical feedback from participating educators.

Below, we present the survey and associated results organized in the order that prompts were presented to study participants. Representative quotes are included and grouped based on patterns of constructive/critical comments and recommendations. For example, open-ended responses that were overly general have been removed.

Survey Results

Welcome: Thank you for participating in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Accessibility Study! The ratings and feedback you provided will help us improve test items and the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL) for students with significant cognitive disabilities, particularly those experiencing visual impairment or blindness.

Directions: To complete participation in the study, please take this short evaluation survey. The survey should take you about 5 minutes to complete and your responses are anonymous. The multiple-choice prompts are required. You may also give additional context and recommendations in the text boxes provided, with only the final prompt being required. Your responses will help improve the ongoing development and validation process for the VAAP.

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q2 - Rate the training you received for completing your independent review assignments for the Accessibility Study.	Adequate = 4 (100%) Inadequate = 0 (0%)
Q3 - Please give any recommendations for improving the training in which you participated.	**see quotes, below

Positive Comments:

the check in before going on was good, I felt like I knew what I was doing at that point

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q4 - Rate the usefulness of the Distributed Item Review (DIR) for reviewing and rating the accessibility of VAAP test items.	Useful = 4 (100%) Not useful = 0 (0%)
Q5 - Please give any recommendations for improving the usefulness of the DIR.	**see quotes, below

Positive Comments:

i liked being able to give my feedback in written form instead of verbalizing it

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q6 - Rate the experience and support during the independent review and whole-group discussion portions of the Accessibility Study (e.g., live support from study personnel, helpfulness of discussion).	Adequate = 4 (100%) Inadequate = 0 (0%)
Q7 - Please give any recommendations for improving the experience and support during the independent review and whole-group discussion portions of the Accessibility Study.	**see quotes, below

Positive Comments:

This was a good time to hear what others were thinking. I think often we think about different groups of VI students based on our experience.

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q8 - Rate the overall quality of the Accessibility Study (training, alignment review in the DIR, whole-group discussion).	Adequate = 4 (100%) Inadequate = 0 (0%)
Q9 - Please give any recommendations for improving the overall quality of the Accessibility Study.	There were no recommendations provided.

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q10 - Please share any additional comments about your experience as part of the Accessibility Study.	**see quotes, below

Positive Comments:

Grateful to be a part of this study!

Appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the process of this new testing format

Informative

Reminder to think in terms of groups of students (ex. blind, low vision, cvi) is helpful so I was able to not focus on the outliers.