



Constructing the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program

Instructional Practices for Teachers of Students with
Significant Cognitive Disabilities

James Madison University
June 27, 2022

Constructing the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program

The Departments of Assessment, Accountability and ESEA Programs and Special Education and Student Services began construction of the new VAAP in 2019. Partners in and outside of Virginia were important to our work:

- Behavior Research and Teaching (BRT) at the University of Oregon
- Pearson
- VDOE Training & Technical Assistance Centers
- Special Education Directors
- Division Directors of Testing
- Building Level Administrators
- Virginia Teachers
- Virginia Parents



The Work of Our Partners

BRT: Test Design, VESOL and Item Development

Pearson: Test Delivery, Scoring & Reporting

TTACs: Curricular and Instructional Resources

Special Education Directors: Division level communication, training and support

Division Directors of Testing: Division implementation



The Work of Our Virginia Teacher Partners (1 of 2)

VESOL Validation Study

Fall 2020
27 Teachers

VI Item Review

Summer 21
4 VI Teachers

VESOL Alignment Study

Spring 2021
36 Teachers

Performance Level Descriptors Review (PLD)

December 21
21 Teachers

Stakeholder Committee

Spring 2021
3 Teachers

Standard Setting Committees

Spring 22
67 Teachers

The Work of Our Virginia Teacher Partners (2 of 2)

- Developed lesson plans and instructional activities
- Adapted and taught content to meet student needs
- Monitored student progress
- Administered VAAP practice items
- Developed Student Test Plans
- Worked with Parents
- Served on IEP Teams
- Participated in state and local VAAP training
- Trained and supported other educators
- Learned and implemented the new VAAP
- Administered the VAAP to students



VAAP Partner Accomplishments

- Successfully constructed a 35-item multiple-choice assessment for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and high school in reading, mathematics and science

The image features a white background with numerous 3D stars and confetti pieces scattered around the text. The stars are in red, green, blue, and brown, and some have a slight shadow. The confetti consists of small, irregular pieces in the same color palette. The text "Thank You" is centered and rendered in a dark gray, serif font with a 3D effect, including a shadow.

Thank You

Our Work Today

To provide feedback to VDOE on the 1st VAAP administration

- Teacher Survey Completion
- Round Table Discussions

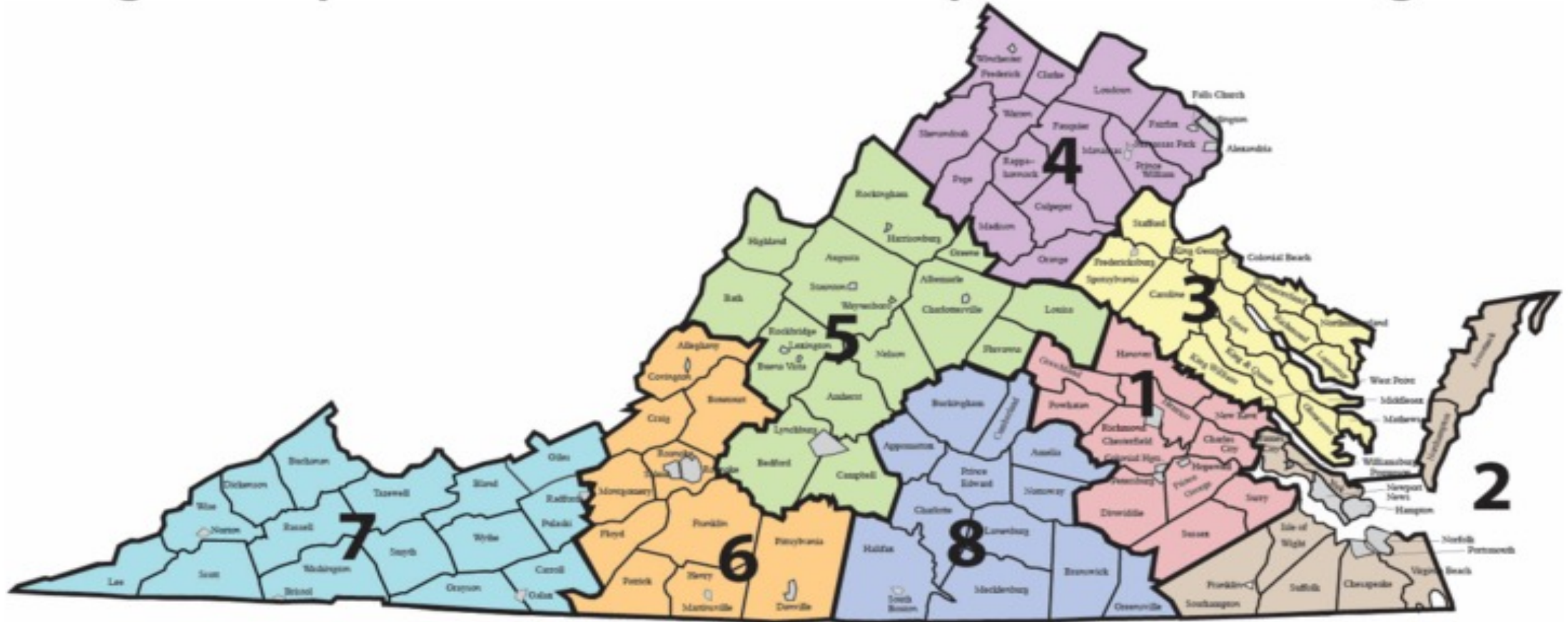
VAAP Teacher Survey



Please take about 15 minutes to complete the survey.

<https://forms.gle/G8Y2mEptsVSA9eNZ8>

Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Regions



Regional TTACs

Region 1 and 8

- VCU
- Jackie Neidle

Region 2 and 3

- ODU
- Daniel Biegun and
- Ynez Peterson

Region 4

- GMU
- Karen Berlin and
- Geoff Weber

Region 5

- JMU
- Jesse Rodriguez

Region 6 and 7

- VT
- Sue Shultz and Matt Newton

Round Table Discussions

1. Tables are designated by the Superintendent's Region of your school division. Each table should select a recorder.
2. Tables will discuss 5 topics focusing on teacher experiences with IEP teams in identifying eligible students, teaching VESOL content, preparing to administer the VAAP, administering the VAAP, and identifying supports for VAAP needed for the coming school year.
3. Approximately 10 minutes will be allotted for each topic. Allotted time should be divided between time for sharing and time for the recorder to enter discussion highlights or summary into the padlet using a laptop, iPad, or cellphone. Entries from individual participants are also welcomed.
4. Highlights entered into Padlet will appear on screen under each topic.
5. TTAC staff will be available to support tables in their Superintendent's Regions.



Round Table Discussions

To ensure that all topics are discussed, regional tables will start discussion with different topics

- Region 1 and 8 Start with topic 1
- Region 2 and 3 start with topic 2
- Regions 4 and 5 start with topic 3
- Region 6 and 7 start with topic 4

Round Table Discussions




tinyurl.com/yc3ydxcv

Round Table Discussions

1. Describe your experience working with IEP teams to identify eligible students for participation in the VAAP.
2. Describe your experience teaching VESOL content.
3. Describe your experience in preparing to administer the VAAP (i.e. uses of practice items, division training, preparing student test plans).

Round Table Discussions

4. Describe your experience administering the VAAP.
5. What additional support(s) do you need next school year (22-23) for the instruction of the VESOL and administration of the VAAP that you did not have for the past school year?



— Thank you for sharing your feedback and partnering with us on the construction of the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program

Virginia Department of Education

Department of Assessment, Accountability and ESEA Programs

Department of Special Education and Student Services