

To: Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Stakeholder Committee Members

From: Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent
Department of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs
Virginia Department of Education

Subject: Invitation to Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Stakeholder Committee established by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). The purpose of this committee is to advise the Department of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs and the Department of Special Education and Student Services on issues related to the new VAAP, which will replace the current portfolio-based assessment beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. The new VAAP will be an online assessment in Reading, Mathematics, and Science for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 through 8 and high school. To ensure consideration of a broad range of perspectives, the committee includes directors of special education, directors of testing, special education teachers, building level administrators, teachers, parents and state agency staff from across the Commonwealth.

The first stakeholder meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, from 3:00-5:00 PM. The focus of the meeting will be to share information pertinent to the current VAAP and to provide an overview of the new assessment. Would you please reply to this email to confirm your receipt of the email and your attendance at the first meeting?

Connection information and meeting materials will be provided by March 1, 2021. It is anticipated that the stakeholder committee will convene two additional times over the next five months.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Student Assessment by email at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2102.