

Welcome to the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Stakeholder Committee Meeting

The meeting
will begin soon...

Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Stakeholder Meeting Agenda May 19, 2021

3:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

3:10 p.m. Follow up on Recommendations from March 3 meeting (Virginia Department of Education staff)

3:30 p.m. Snapshot of New VAAP Test Design and Supporting Student Participation in the New VAAP (Behavioral Research and Teaching (BRT) staff)

4:00 p.m. Breakout Rooms Discussions:

What are effective ways for VDOE to communicate information about new VAAP test design, supports and accommodations that will prepare school staff and parents for test implementation in 2021-2022?

4:30 p.m. Report Out – One stakeholder reports out for each group

4:55 p.m. Closing Remarks and Evaluations

March 3, 2021 Recommendations Update

Stakeholder Meeting #1 - Recap

Stakeholders responded to this focus question:

What are effective ways for the Virginia Department of Education to communicate information about the new VAAP to school division staff, parents, and others?

New VAAP Communication Recommendations

(1 of 2)

- Videos (Transcripts of Videos for use in different languages)
- Power Points (Voice Over)
- Brochures/Pamphlets
- FAQ for Teachers
- FAQ for Parents
- Guidance Documents
- Zoom Informational Meetings for Specific Groups
- Smaller Meetings for Specific Groups

New VAAP Communication Recommendations

(2 of 2)

- School Divisions
- Parent Resource Centers
- Special Education PTA
- State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)
- Virginia Family Special Education Connection
- Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

New VAAP Communication Update

| Communication Tools | Status |
|---|---|
| Smaller Meetings for Specific Groups | Completed |
| Brochures/Pamphlets | In final review |
| FAQ for Teachers | In final review |
| FAQ for Parents | In final review |
| Videos (Transcripts of Videos for use in different languages) | 1 st draft of script developed for introductory presentation for parents |
| Zoom Informational Meetings for Specific Groups | Completed 3 out of 5 Introductory Teacher Webinars |
| PowerPoints (Voice Over) | Recording of Teacher Webinars |

Introductory Teacher Webinar Schedule

- Wednesday, April 28, 2021 4:30 - 6:00 pm
- Monday, May 3, 2021 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:30 - 6:00 pm
- Monday, May 24, 2021 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 26, 2021 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Questions and Answers



Snapshot of the New VAAP Test Design

New VAAP Test Design: Snapshot (1 of 2)

- Content areas: Reading, Math, and Science
 - Grades 3-8 and HS – Reading & Math
 - Grades 5, 8, and HS – Science
- Based on Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL)
- Individual Administration in Spring 2022
- One grade-level test for each content area (not computer adaptive)

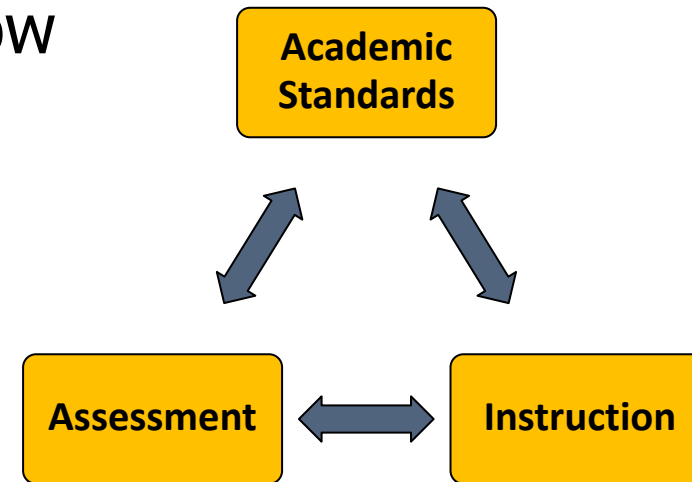
New VAAP Test Design: Snapshot (2 of 2)

- All items are multiple-choice with three answer options
- Each item includes:
Context read aloud (by Examiner or computer) to orient the student to the question, student question, three answer options
- Each test includes:
 - Items of varying complexity. Test begins with easier items and progresses to more complex ones.
 - Operational items (count toward student score)
 - Field-test items (do not count toward student score – being tried out with students for potential use on future tests)

VAAP Test Items

VAAP test items must be **accessible**, **appropriate**, and **relevant** in ways that:

1. Reflect the range/diversity in cognitive processing and disability exceptionalities that we observe in students with significant cognitive disabilities and
2. Work together with the VESOL and classroom instruction to allow students to show what they know and can do.



Supporting Student Participation in the New VAAP

Supporting the Participation of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities



Universal Design for Assessment

VAAP Test & Item Design

Accommodations under Consideration

Universal Design for Assessment (UDA)

The goal of universal design is to improve access to assessments for all students...a more accurate understanding of what students know and can do. – National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)

- Inclusive assessment population
- Precisely defined constructs
- Accessible, non-biased items
- Amenable and flexible to accommodations
- Simple, clear, and intuitive instructions and procedures
- Maximum readability and comprehensibility
- Maximum legibility

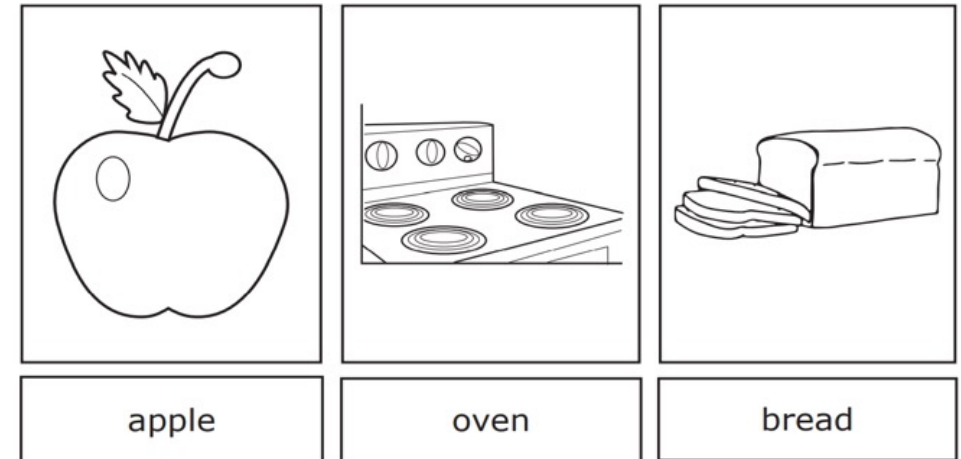
UDA in VAAP Test & Item Design

- One test item per screen or page
- Three answer options
- Examiner materials (oral context)
- Student materials
- Consistent size and spacing
- Significant white space
- Black/white for text and graphics
- Line art, very little fill for graphics
- Simple and clear instructions
- Concise context, item, and answer options
- Simple and parallel grammar
- Remove superfluous detail

Here is a sentence about Ben.

Ben likes to bake bread.

What does Ben like to bake?



Structure of New VAAP Items (1 of 3)

Item Set Up:

Introductory information about the item is presented orally to the student (by Examiner or computer).

Here is a sentence about Ben.

Ben likes to bake bread.

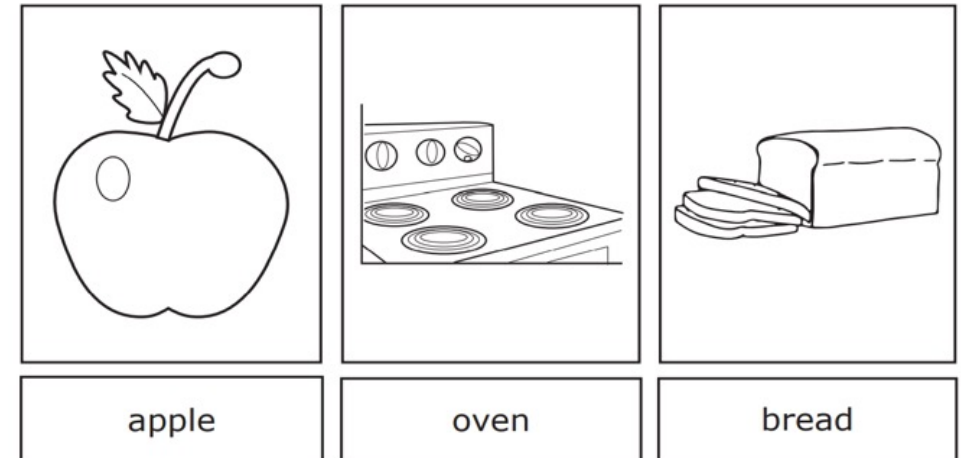
What does Ben like to bake?

Presentation of Test Question:

Viewed on computer screen; paper copy can be provided.

Answer Options:

Three answer options are presented.
May be accompanied by pictures.



Structure of New VAAP Items (2 of 3)

Item Set Up:

Introductory information about the item is presented orally to the student (by Examiner or computer).

Here is an addition problem.

What is 1 plus 4?

$$1 + 4 = ?$$

Presentation of Test Question:

Viewed on computer screen; paper copy can be provided.

Answer Options:

Three answer options are presented.
May be accompanied by pictures.

Structure of New VAAP Items (3 of 3)

Item Set Up:

Introductory information about the item is presented orally to the student (by Examiner or computer).

Here is a plant in the Sun.

Photosynthesis is how plants use light to make food and grow.

Presentation of Test Question:

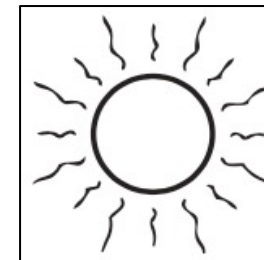
Viewed on computer screen; paper copy can be provided.



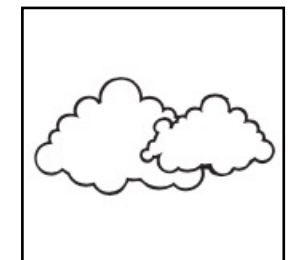
What gives light to plants?



Leaves



Sun



Clouds

Answer Options:

Three answer options are presented. May be accompanied by pictures.

Building on Previous Work

Iterative, design-based review – revise – refine approach to test development and validation, and builds on the previous and ongoing work of many stakeholders!

Test items have been reviewed for:

- Alignment to standards
- Bias for protected populations
- Accessibility for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Accessibility for students with visual impairments/blindness



Accommodations under Consideration

Timing/Scheduling Accommodations:

- Multiple test sessions
- Time of day
- Order of tests
- Planned breaks during test

Setting Accommodations:

- Test location
- Adaptive or special furniture
- Special lighting

Presentation Accommodations under Consideration

- Braille (surveying school divisions)
- Visual magnification devices/software
- Computer administration functions (resize, repeat, volume, pace, resetting, high contrast)
- Auditory amplification/buffers
- Interpreting/transliteration
- Manipulatives
- Highlighting
- Masking devices
- Calculators
- Color overlays
- Projection devices
- Human and text-to-speech read aloud
- Visual point-to support of directions/question/answer options
- Attentional sensory supports
- Physical position supports
- Others?

Response Accommodations under Consideration

- Student assistive technology (any device that serves as primary communication mode; word processing, typewriter, adaptative keyboard, tactile communicator)
- Response aids for printed items (e.g., adaptive pencils, key guards, skins)
- Computer response functions (write, erase, keyboard, touchscreen, stylus)
- Point-to or physical response dictation
- Student read-aloud and sub-vocalization
- Alternate response options (e.g., adaptive keyboard, large keyboard, StickyKeys, MouseKeys, FilterKeys, adapted mouse, touchscreen, head wand, switches)

Online Accessibility Features Available

- Accessibility Features
 - Zoom and resizing
 - Keyboard and touchscreen
 - Background/foreground color
 - Line reader masking
 - Answer masking
 - Sign out for breaking/restart

Questions and Answers



Breakout Room Discussion & Report Out

Our Focus Question:

What are effective ways for VDOE to communicate information about new VAAP test design, supports and accommodations that will prepare school staff and parents for test implementation in 2021-2022?

Report Out:

One stakeholder reports out for group

Evaluation & Closing Remarks

(See chat for evaluation weblink)

THANK YOU!!