

Excerpt from the March 22, 2021 VDOE VAAP Internal Meeting Minutes

Stakeholder Meeting Outcomes– 3/3/21 Breakout Room Summary; Next meeting: May 12, 2021 3-5pm

What are the most effective ways for VDOE to communicate information about the new VAAP to school division staff, parents and others?

Effective Ways to Communicate

- Videos (Transcripts of Videos so school divisions can translate into different languages)
- Power Points (Voice Over)
- Brochures/Pamphlets (Sharon) - Tracy Lee (SPED VDOE)
- FAQ for Teachers (Lia)
- FAQ for Parents (Deborah)
- Guidance Documents for use at IEP meetings
- Zoom Informational Meetings for Specific Groups (for teachers – helps to manage the message; a short series of meetings; have been successful in late afternoon or evening; for PTA)
- Smaller Focus Groups for Specific Groups

Related Comments:

•Teachers are bombarded with emails – so other types of communication would be more effective.

•There is confusion at the parent level-Do parents understand that VAAP has to change and why? Engage parents as early as possible as the process is occurring-not that it's not in compliance.

•Need to be transparent but in a way that is meaningful and relevant for the parents.

•Where is the fear at the ground level-need to hear it and understand it?

•Webinars rich in content and “not death by slides” will be most helpful.

•Timing, emphasis on the timing of getting information out to school divisions, training for teachers and building administrators, and parents.

VDOE website is not clear, so some parents don't use it. Pages have too much information. Have school divisions put on their web sites or provide

•Critical-teachers need to be sold that this change will make a better relationship/positive with parents.

•Need to realize that teachers will have the same fears as parents and we need to get the message out there that teachers want students to succeed to.

Suggested Communication Partners (Based on comment about VDOE website, we will need others to help us share information

- LEA's / School Divisions
- Parent Resource Centers- Hank Milward, VDOE SPED
- Special Education PTA- Amanda Campbell, VP of PTA Fairfax
- SSEAC- Mike Garrison, Region 6
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter) – Claire Talbert, TTAC GMU
- *Virginia Family Special Education Connection (website: vafamilysped.org)*
- *PEATC- Suzanne Bowers, Exec Director (parent group)*
- Constituent Services at VDOE
- What about VEA?

May 12th for next stakeholder meeting – would like to reflect recommendations from initial meeting.

Excerpts from the May 24, 2021 VDOE VAAP Internal Meeting Minutes

Stakeholder Meeting #2

We are making progress! Last week we successfully completed our 2nd stakeholder meeting that focused on ways to communicate new test design, supports and accommodations to the field and to parents. This week we will complete our final two teacher webinars - this evening (7pm -8:30 PM) and on Wednesday (4:30-6pm). Outcomes of the stakeholder meeting and the teacher webinars suggest critical work that needs to be completed this summer to prepare school divisions and parents for new VAAP implementation in 2021-22.

Stakeholder Committee Meeting #2 and Teacher Webinars – Critical Outcomes

Issues raised and discussed in the stakeholder meetings and teacher webinars suggest the importance of the development and posting of a number of important informational and experience-based products for the new VAAP, including VESOL, documents for parents, curricular resources, and practice tests. An internal delivery schedule to guide our work is proposed.