

**Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)
Teacher Review & Validation Study: PLD Development & Evaluation
Teacher Evaluation Survey
December 2021
Summary of Participants & Results**

Educators: $n = 7$

Response Rate: 100%

Completion Rate: 100%

Recorded Dates: 12-14-2021 to 12-16-2021

Survey Participants

In Dec of 2021, VDOE personnel recruited seven Virginia educators to participate in a review of the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Performance Level Descriptors (PLD). Educators held a variety of current positions, with all of them teaching in classrooms serving students with significant cognitive disabilities (SWSCD) or working with teachers serving SWSCD. All educators had considerable experience teaching SWSCD, with four having over 10 years of experience ($M = 11.14$ years; *Median* = 10 years; *Range* = 4 to 20 years). Most taught multiple grades and subject areas, including in elementary, middle school, and/or high school settings in reading and language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies over the past couple of years. All seven educators had at least one bachelor's degree in education, special education, or education-related field; three teachers had master's degrees, and one had a doctorate in education. All seven educators had certificates and/or endorsements in specific disabilities (emotional, intellectual, specific learning, blind and visual impairments), and some in specific grade levels (e.g., early and elementary education). Of the seven educators, all but one was female, and of those six, three were Black or African American and three were White. No educator indicated they were Hispanic. Educators' personal statements highlighted expertise in teaching academic content to SWSCD, with many emphasizing development and use of adapted curriculum, behavioral supports, and embedded functional life skills.

Survey Method and Data Collection

We designed the short survey to gather feedback from educators on the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Performance Level Descriptors (PLD) to help develop PLDs to accurately describe and meaningfully interpret student performance on the VAAP, including as a basis for conducting standard setting in the spring 2022. 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) Performance Level Descriptors (PLD) Review Study! The feedback you provided will help us refine PLDs to accurately describe and meaningfully interpret student performance on the VAAP, including as a basis for successfully conducting standard setting in spring '22.

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 review of draft Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) for the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP).	Adequate = 7 (100%) Inadequate = 0 (0%)
Q3 - Please give any recommendations for improving the training.	There were no recommendations provided.

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q4 - Rate the experience and support during the independent review and whole-group discussion portions of the PLD Review Study (e.g., support from study personnel, helpfulness of and content included in discussion).	Useful = 7 (100%) Not Useful = 0 (0%)
Q5 - Please give any recommendations for improving the experience and support.	**see quotes, below

Positive Comments:

I love the experience to collab with other teachers.

Great and timely feedback for questions during independent review

Constructive and/or critical comments/recommendations:

Not enough time was given for the independent review.

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q6 - Rate the overall quality of the PLDs refined during the study.	Adequate = 7 (100%) Inadequate = 0 (0%)
Q7 - Please give any recommendations for improving the overall quality of the PLDs.	There were no recommendations provided.

Question Text	Response Counts (%)
Q8 - Rate the overall quality of the PLD Review Study.	Adequate = 7(100%) Inadequate = 0 (0%)
Q9 - Please give any recommendations for improving the overall quality of the PLD Review Study.	**see quotes, below

Positive Comments:

No recommendations for improvement - I felt that everyone worked to ensure maximum use of time and that all discussion/recommendations were taken into consideration.

Constructive and/or critical comments/recommendations:

allow for more time

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

Positive Comments:

It was flattering to be asked, i felt the responses to questions were timely, i felt that our concerns/discussions were well taken and listened to.

I enjoyed being a part of of the review team and having my voice heard.

The experience gave me insight on teaching my students and how other teachers think about the standards.

I really appreciated the opportunity to do this work and feel that it is a wonderful way to incorporate feedback from professionals across Virginia.

Constructive and/or critical comments/recommendations:

I continue to be very concerned about the new VAAP and the PLDs. The PLDs leave a lot up to interpretation. I understand why but I worry that they will be interpreted differently and possibly disadvantage our students. Many of my questions/concerns will hopefully be addressed in the future.