# Title: Overview of the New Virginia Alternate Assessment Program and the

# Process Used to Establish Cut Scores

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## Presenter: Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Student

## Assessment, Accountability and ESEA programs

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## Email: shelley.loving-ryder@doe.virginia.gov Phone: 804-225-2102

## Summary of the Topic:

The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) tests are administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to access the Standards of Learning tests. In February 2019 the United States Department of Education (USED) notified the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) that the portfolio-based VAAP that had been in use for a number of years did not meet the testing requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and would have to be replaced. Over the past few years, VDOE staff has worked with staff at the University of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Education to develop a new VAAP assessment.

The new VAAP test is being administered for the first time in spring 2022. Since the test is new, the Virginia Board of Education (Board) will need to establish minimum scores (cut scores) for the performance levels of proficient and advanced. Committees of educators are being convened in April and May to review the tests and to make recommendations to the Board regarding the cut scores. The board will be asked to waive first review and adopt cut scores for the new VAAP test at the June 2022 board meeting. Adoption of the cut scores at the June meeting is necessary so that parents can be provided with their students’ test results and so that the VAAP test results will be available for use in the state accreditation and federal accountability calculations beginning in early July. To allow the Board and the public time to review the recommended cut scores prior to the June board meeting, VDOE staff will provide information about the recommended cut scores for the new VAAP tests to the Board and the public in May.

An overview of the new VAAP test and a discussion of the process used to establish cut scores is being provided to the Board in this work session to facilitate the Board’s review of the cut score information prior to the June board meeting.

## Timetable for Follow-up or Next Steps:

Information about the recommendations of the committees of educators convened to recommend cut scores for the new VAAP tests will be provided to the Board and the public in May in preparation for the June board meeting. The Board will be asked to waive first review and adopt cut scores for the new VAAP test at the June 2022 board meeting.