



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: May 18, 2023
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Determining Growth for Grades 3 through 8 Beginning with Accreditation Year 2023-2024**

The purpose of this memo is to clarify how growth will be calculated, for accreditation purposes, for the 2023-2024 school year.

Growth is a component of the mathematics and reading combined rates for grades 3 through 8 in Virginia's accreditation model. The combined rate is used in the calculations for the *Academic Achievement-Mathematics*, *Academic Achievement-English*, *Achievement Gap-Mathematics*, and *Achievement Gap-English* indicators. On April 20, 2023, [the Virginia Board of Education \(Board\) approved a methodology for measuring growth](#) for grades 3 through 8 students, beginning with the 2023-2024 accreditation year, which is based on 2022-2023 school year data.

For a grade 4 through 8 student who failed the current year and previous year state assessments, a year-to-year comparison of state assessment results (previous spring to current spring) will be used in the methodology to determine whether a student demonstrated growth. A year-to-year comparison results in comparing a previous year's Standards of Learning (SOL) test or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) test to the current year's SOL test or VAAP test.

For a grade 3 student who failed the current year SOL test, a comparison between the fall growth assessment and the current year spring SOL assessment will be used to determine whether a student demonstrated growth. Currently, growth for grade 3 VAAP students is not included in

accountability calculations because VAAP students are not administered state assessments in the fall.

As in previous years, a progress table methodology will be used to determine whether a failing student demonstrated growth for accountability purposes. Division Directors of Testing have received the progress tables via email. The tables are also available in the *Accreditation* application of the Virginia Department of Education [Single Sign-On for Web Systems](#) application.

For questions regarding the content of this memorandum, please contact Amy Siepka, Director, Office of Accountability, at (804) 225-2102 or accountability@doe.virginia.gov.

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