

Work Group on the Future of Assessment

July 27, 2023

Agenda & Meeting Objective

1. Welcome, Introductions and Background (~20 minutes)
2. Building Consensus Around Draft Recommendations (~90 minutes)
3. Dinner and Conversation (~15 minutes)
4. Additional Opportunities (~15 minutes)
5. Closing and Next Steps (~10 minutes)

Meeting 4 Objective

- Weigh in on draft recommendations

Introductions

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education, Office of the Governor

Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Justine Taylor-Raymond, Assistant Secretary of Education

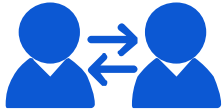
Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent of Student Assessment, Accountability & ESEA Programs, Virginia Department of Education

Sarah Susbury, Director, Office of Student Assessment, Virginia Department of Education

Supported by **Watershed Advisors**:

- Jill Pinsky, Managing Director
- Jamie Dollinger, Director
- Sarah Shepherd, Analyst

Housekeeping & Meeting Norms



Be ready for paired and whole group discussion



Include your name or initials on the star stickers and post-it notes for follow-up discussion



Jot additional thoughts and ideas for future consideration on post-it notes and affix to the “parking lot” poster

Discussion Protocol

Make space, take space

- Step into the conversation to participate, and step back to let others share

Assume the best

- Foster a positive, supportive environment for discussion

Speak from an “I” perspective

- Share personal thoughts, reflections, and feedback

Be open to learning and taking risks

- Embrace new ideas
- Encourage creativity

Work Group Member Introductions

Please share:

- *Your name*
- *Your role*
- *What you are most looking forward to in today's discussion*

HB 585 Purpose & Objectives

Purpose. Recommend changes to the statewide summative assessments and develop a plan for implementation of the revised assessments.

HB 585 Required Considerations. The Secretary of Education and the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction shall convene and consult a work group, which shall consider:

- 1) Best practices and **innovations in summative assessments** of proficiency from across the nation;
- 2) Alternative **approaches to current and new assessment items**, including subject areas and methods of grading such items;
- 3) Assessment items that include **open-ended questions, long-form writing**, and other tasks, with student responses scored by the Department according to statewide scoring rubrics;
- 4) Plan for **pilot implementation of such assessment items** prior to the 2027-2028 school year as necessary to determine the validity of such items;
- 5) The **process for the development of a bank** of vetted sample assessment items that include a comprehensive representation of knowledge and skills being assessed;
- 6) The **legislative and regulatory changes and funding** necessary to implement alternative approaches considered by the work group;
- 7) The effectiveness of **assessments for students with disabilities**, including the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program for those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and the use of those assessments to improve and individualize instruction; and
- 8) A proposed **timeline for implementation** of such new assessments, giving consideration to implementation prior to the 2027-2028 school year.

Work Group Timeline

Meeting 1 March

Understand the purpose of state assessments generally

Understand how Virginia's state assessment system works currently

Consider the challenges with Virginia's current assessment system

Meeting 2 April

Understand the national landscape and best practices, as context for Virginia's assessment system

Consider how national best practices and innovations do or do not address the challenges with the VA assessment system

Meeting 3 May

Understand Virginia's assessment system currently, contrasted with the national landscape

Begin to define goals and objectives for the future of VA assessments

Meeting 4 July

Weigh in on draft recommendations

Meeting 5 August

Understand the legislative and regulatory changes needed, if relevant

Consider final recommendations, including the timeline for implementation

*Based on the recommendations developed by this Work Group, VDOE will submit its initial plan for the implementation of Virginia's revised summative assessment to the General Assembly by **November 1, 2023**.*

Building Consensus around Draft Recommendations

Recommendations to the General Assembly

Virginia should ensure availability of new assessments aligned to the four opportunity areas identified by the Work Group:



Clear and Rigorous Standards



Rigorous Assessment Items



Actionable Reporting



System Coherence

The new assessments should reflect new standards adopted by the state board, and should be inclusive of summative and growth assessments.

Emerging Opportunity Areas: Current State

1. Clear and Rigorous Standards



Virginia's standards do not align with what students need to prepare for college and career, resulting in assessments that often fail to reflect gaps in student learning. At the same time, **Virginia students are falling behind students in other states**, as confirmed by NAEP.

2. Rigorous Assessment Items



Students have limited opportunities to demonstrate critical thinking through rigorous item types (e.g., writing, constructed response). Assessments are not aligned to high-quality classroom instruction and real-world application.

3. Actionable Reporting



Assessment reports, though detailed, may not be user-friendly. **Teachers and families do not have access to clear, actionable information.** Teachers are not fully equipped to use results to inform instruction and to support individual students. Families are not supported in understanding and acting on their student's results.

4. System Coherence



Divisions are adding their own assessments on top of the summative and growth assessments required by the state. **Students and teachers must navigate a web of assessments that all signal different – sometimes conflicting – expectations** for student learning and results in duplicative testing.

Virginia students are falling behind students in other states.

Draft Recommendations: Gallery Walk (5 minutes)

The four opportunity areas are represented around the room with posters that reflect the **current state**, **future state**, and **draft recommendations**.

You will each receive 3 stickers for this gallery walk. In your initial review of the draft recommendations, **place your stickers on the three draft recommendations that resonate most strongly with you.**



Think, Pair, Share Activity Instructions

THINK

- Independently, review the packet aligned to the opportunity area of focus.
- Using the post-it notes at your table, first reflect individually on the post-it questions, recording your initial thoughts on the post-it note with the corresponding color.

PAIR

- Discuss the packet and post-it note thoughts with your partner, generating additional post-it notes together as needed.

SHARE

- Prepare for a whole group discussion around the current state, future state, and draft recommendations.

Post-It Note Instructions

- Blue post-it notes (questions)** - What do you want to know more about? What doesn't make sense?
- Green post-it notes (changes)** - What/how would you shift or change in the draft recommendations?
- Pink post-it notes (additions)** - What would you add that currently feels missing?

Opportunity 1: Pairs

Grace Creasey	Matt Hurt	
Thomas Taylor	Jenna Alexander	
Kristy Somerville-Midgette	Mychael Willon	
Jamie Soltis	Sarah Susbury	Tracy Lagatta
Amy McClure	Wendy Chandler	
Amber Northern	Rebekah Amato	
Sheryl Lazarus	Shelley Loving Ryder	

Opportunity 2: Pairs

Amber Northern	Tracy Lagatta
Thomas Taylor	Amy McClure
Kristy Somerville-Midgette	Grace Creasey
Mychael Willon	Sarah Susbury
Sheryl Lazarus	Jamie Soltis
Jenna Alexander	Wendy Chandler
Shelley Loving-Ryder	Rebekah Amato
Justine Taylor-Raymond	Matt Hurt

Opportunity 3: Pairs

Grace Creasey	Jamie Soltis
Thomas Taylor	Sheryl Lazarus
Kristy Somerville-Midgette	Matt Hurt
Shelley Loving-Ryder	Amy McClure
Amber Northern	Mychael Willon
Tracy Lagatta	Sarah Susbury
Jenna Alexander	Rebekah Amato
Justine Taylor-Raymond	Wendy Chandler

Opportunity 4: Pairs

Grace Creasey	Wendy Chandler
Thomas Taylor	Amber Northern
Jamie Soltis	Matt Hurt
Amy McClure	Tracy Lagatta
Rebekah Amato	Sheryl Lazarus
Shelley Loving-Ryder	Mychael Willon
Sarah Susbury	Jenna Alexander
Justine Taylor-Raymond	Kristy Somerville-Midgette

Additional Opportunities

Additional Opportunities: Group Discussion

If you could wave a magic wand and anything was possible, what would Virginia's assessments look like?

Closing and Next Steps

Exit Ticket (5 minutes)

You should have an email from Jamie Dollinger with a direct link to the exit ticket.

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Next Steps

Next week, you will receive an additional survey (via e-mail) with updated draft recommendation language from today's discussion:

- This survey will ask for your additional feedback on the updated draft recommendations
- Please complete the survey per the provided instructions

Before our next meeting, you should expect the following (via e-mail):

- Outreach to schedule 1:1 calls
- Agenda for Meeting 5

The Work Group will reconvene virtually on Thursday, August 31 from 9:00am – 11:30am EST

If you have any questions about the upcoming meeting, please contact Jill Pinsky at jill.pinsky@watershed-advisors.com or Jamie Dollinger at jamie.dollinger@watershed-advisors.com