

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: What is the cost to the school system to train and administer the VGLA tests? Please include time both in and out of the classroom.

Response: The following response was prepared by Fairfax County Public Schools:

In the spring of 2009, approximately 9,500 Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) and 900 Virginia Alternative Assessment Program (VAAP) tests were scored. Both the VAAPs and the VGLAs were scored centrally. There were 2 scoring events. The cost to score these collections of evidence (COEs) was \$206,297.46.

Breakdown of scoring costs for VGLA and VAAP in the spring of 2009

Development of Scantron forms for data entry	\$778
Printing	\$6,219
Rental of site for scoring events and related expenses	\$78,372
Rental of site for scorer training	\$1,300
Security at Scoring Events	\$350
Compensation for Scorers or Substitutes	\$119,044
Transportation of binders to scoring event	\$234
TOTAL	\$206,297

In addition to the costs of scoring, there were costs associated with the training of teachers to create the COEs.

Breakdown of the training costs for teachers to create COEs for VGLA.

Compensation for teacher training, collaboration, and planning	\$207,792
Rental of sites for VGLA administration training	\$20,341
Printing, materials, and supplies	\$1,819
TOTAL	\$229,952

Total costs (not including central office and warehouse staff time) = \$436,249.

It is not possible to calculate classroom time spent collecting VGLA evidence separate from instruction, grading and review of student performance by Professional Learning Communities. The evidence used in VGLA binders represent ongoing, formative assessments used by teachers to determine if students have understood and can demonstrate SOL content. The same classroom assessments may be used throughout the year to determine student understanding after instruction for both students who will submit VGLA binders, and those who will be assessed on the standard SOL multiple choice end-of-year test.