

Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget

Request By: Board of Supervisors

Question: What is the impact of VGLA scores on FCPS' academic achievement and how would schools' test scores change if VGLA results were excluded?

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

The impact of the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) scores on FCPS' academic achievement is minimal. The percentage of VGLAs administered in each subject is:

- Reading 8.3%
- Mathematics 4.3%
- History 1.2%
- Science 0.5%
- Writing 0.7%

The tables below provide information on reading, mathematics, history, science and writing assessments administered to students in Grades 3-8 in 2009-10. The Standards of Learning – Multiple Choice assessment is the most commonly administered test. The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) is designed to evaluate the performance of students with significant cognitive disabilities. The VGLA is available for students in grades 3 through 8 as an alternative assessment for the Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. Students who qualify to participate in the VGLA are required to demonstrate individual achievement of grade-level content standards in which they are being assessed. The VGLA is available to eligible students with disabilities. In addition, the Reading VGLA is available for eligible students with limited English proficiency.

Fairfax County Public Schools – 2009-10 Division-Level Data Grades 3 thru 8

Reading Assessments

(Includes all students tested at grades 3 thru 8)

Assessment	Number Administered	% Pass
Standards of Learning—Multiple Choice	68,936	92.5
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program—VAAP	855	95.9
Virginia Grade Level Alternative—VGLA	6,323	92.5
All Reading Assessments in Grades 3 thru 8	76,114	92.5

Mathematics Assessments

(Includes all students tested at grades 3 thru 8)

Assessment	Number Administered	% Pass
Standards of Learning—Multiple Choice	72,411	90.0
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program—VAAP	854	91.6
Virginia Grade Level Alternative—VGLA	3,302	93.4
All Mathematics Assessments in Grades 3 thru 8	76,567	90.1

History Assessments

(Includes all students tested in grades 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8)

Assessment	Number Administered	% Pass
Standards of Learning—Multiple Choice	60,579	90.0
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program—VAAP	722	93.2
Virginia Grade Level Alternative—VGLA	759	84.6
All History Assessments in Grades 3 thru 8	62,060	90.0

Science Assessments

(Includes all students tested in grades 3, 5, and 8)

Assessment	Number Administered	% Pass
Standards of Learning—Multiple Choice	36,547	90.7
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program—VAAP	420	88.8
Virginia Grade Level Alternative—VGLA	187	84.0
All Science Assessments in Grades 3 thru 8	37,154	90.6

Writing Assessments

(Includes all students tested in grades 5 and 8)

Assessment	Number Administered	% Pass
Standards of Learning—Multiple Choice	23,468	92.4
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program—VAAP	NA	NA
Virginia Grade Level Alternative—VGLA	159	67.3
All Writing Assessments in Grades 3 thru 8	23,627	92.2