



## Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST)

A PEATC  
Do You Know

Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

- Federal and state laws require students with disabilities to participate in the assessments provided by the state. Students with disabilities must participate in all content area assessments that are available to students without disabilities enrolled in the same grade level. The student's IEP team is responsible for determining how the student will participate and the appropriate assessment option.
- Students who may take the VMAST may exhibit some, or all, of the following characteristics:
  - Work at a slower pace
  - Have deficits in factual knowledge
  - Have difficulty engaging with materials
  - Benefit from differentiated instruction and additional instructional time
  - Requires a high level of support
  - May have retention or memory deficits

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## Do You Know

### What is VMAST?

### Should my child take it instead of the SOL Tests?

#### What is VMAST?

According to the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) is intended for students with disabilities who are being instructed in grade level content but are not likely to achieve proficiency in the same time frame as their non-disabled peers. The VMAST assesses grades 3-8 mathematics and reading, Algebra I, and EOC (End Of Course) Reading.

VMAST uses the same standards and curriculum frameworks as the SOL assessments; however, how achievement is assessed is modified. VMAST is an online assessment, similar to the SOL assessments; however, it is 20% shorter. In addition, it reduces the answer options from 4 to 3, has simpler structure or vocabulary, reduces the number of variables or simplifies digits in mathematics problems, and divides some items into discrete steps. VMAST highlights, color-codes or boxes important information, provides strategies (i.e., reminders, hints, formulas), additional instructions, and interactive tools. It adds/alters graphics, includes precise language for clarification and presents items near relevant sections of short reading passages as opposed to a long reading passage followed by the questions.

#### What is the process for deciding if my child should take the VMAST?

When determining if your child should be assessed with VMAST, the IEP Team should consider the following options:

Option 1:	
Characteristics of Student Performance	Recommended Participation for SOL Test
<b>If the student</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. is able to demonstrate knowledge and skills on a test that primarily uses a multiple choice format, either with or without accommodations;</li> <li><b>and</b></li> <li>b. is working on Standards of Learning at grade level</li> </ul>	<b>Then</b>  the student should take the Standards of Learning test, either with or without accommodations.
Option 2:	
Characteristics of Student Performance	Recommended Participation for VMAST
<b>If the student</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. is enrolled in grades 3 through 8 mathematics or Algebra I or grades 3 through 8 reading or End-of-Course Reading, <b>and</b></li> <li>b. has a standards-based IEP (or one is being developed), <b>and</b></li> <li>c. is working on Standards of Learning that are at grade level, but is not likely to achieve proficiency in the same time frame as non- disabled peers, <b>and</b></li> <li>d. is able to demonstrate knowledge and skills on a test using multiple choice format, but significant supports are needed for access;</li> </ul>	<b>Then</b>  the student should participate in the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test.

## Resources

- Information for this fact sheet was retrieved from **VDOE Procedures for Participation of Students with Disabilities in Virginia's Accountability System**, [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/participation/participation\\_va\\_accountability\\_system.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/participation/participation_va_accountability_system.pdf)
- **VDOE Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST)**: This site provides a power point on how to appropriately select students for VMAST and the participation criteria form that will need to be completed by your IEP team. [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative\\_assessments/vmast\\_va\\_mod\\_achievement\\_stds\\_test/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/vmast_va_mod_achievement_stds_test/)
- **VDOE VMAST Practice Questions**: Are you looking for an example of what type of questions or how questions may be asked on VMAST? Or perhaps, you want your child to practice a couple of items? This site, sponsored by VDOE, will help. Please note this is not a comprehensive site: it does not contain all of the content that will be assessed at your child's grade level nor does it include all item types or functionalities found on the test. [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative\\_assessments/vmast\\_va\\_mod\\_achievement\\_stds\\_test/practice\\_items/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/vmast_va_mod_achievement_stds_test/practice_items/index.shtml)

## FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

**Q:** My child has a 504, not an IEP. Can he/she participate?

**A:** No, a student with a 504 plan cannot participate in VMAST.

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**Q:** My child took the VMAST for Math last year, will he/she automatically be able to take the VMAST for Reading this year?

**A:** No, eligibility for the VMAST in Reading and Mathematics has to be considered separately.

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**Q:** Is my child limited by the type of diploma he/she can receive if he/she takes the VMAST?

**A:** Passing scores on the VMAST can be used for verified credit for the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma

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**Q:** My child's IEP includes accommodations; can he/she access these when taking the VMAST?

**A:** If your child's IEP includes accommodations, then those accommodations should be provided during administration of the VMAST.

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**Q:** It seems like these alternative assessments are constantly changing. Is VMAST here to stay?

**A:** No, the VMAST assessments will only be available to eligible students with disabilities during the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. Beginning in 2014-2015, the VMAST will no longer be available as a separate alternate assessment except for the Algebra I and EOC Reading tests. These VMAST tests will continue to be available only to those students who are using credit accommodations to meet the requirements of a standard diploma. More information about plans for incorporating such supports will be provided to school divisions as they become available. Please stay in communication with your child's teacher to appropriately plan for the 2014-2015 school year.

**Information on the use of credit accommodations can be found on the VDOE website, at:**

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/credit\\_accommodations.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/credit_accommodations.shtml)



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