



Victory Elementary School Testing Information Guide

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1. Introduction

Welcome to Victory Elementary School! This guide provides an overview of the various tests your child will take during their elementary school journey. Understanding these assessments will help you support your child's academic progress.

2. VALLS (Virginia Assessment of Learning and Literacy Skills)

- **Frequency:** Administered three times per year (fall, winter, and spring) for students in grades K-3. Note: Third grade is not required to test all students three times.
- **Purpose:** Designed to identify students who may be at risk for developing reading difficulties.
- **Skills Assessed:**
 - Code-based reading skills: decoding/blending sounds, encoding/spelling, and fluent reading.
 - Language-based skills: understanding and using language.
- **Data Usage:** Provides data to target instruction effectively.
- **Risk Bands:** Each student receives an indication of their overall risk level: low, moderate, or high.
 - **High Risk:** Students significantly behind in basic literacy development receive an additional 2.5 hours of literacy instruction per week.

3. VKRP (Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program)

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) helps schools, teachers, and families understand how ready children are for school in four important areas:

1. **Mathematics:** The Early Math Assessment System (EMAS) gives valuable information about children's early math skills and helps identify those who may need extra support.
2. **Literacy:** this area assesses children's reading and writing skills.
3. **Self-Regulation:** This measures how well children can manage their emotions, behavior, and attention.
4. **Social Skills:** This assesses children's ability to interact with others and form positive relationships.

The VKRP provides a complete picture of a child's readiness for school, allowing for early intervention and support where needed.

4. Math VGA (Virginia Growth Assessment)

Virginia requires growth assessments for reading and math for students in grades 3-5. Here's what you need to know:

- **Alignment with SOL:** These assessments are aligned with the Standards of Learning (SOL) and use shorter computer adaptive tests (CAT) based on existing SOL test items.
- **Adaptive Testing:** The CAT algorithm adjusts the difficulty of questions based on your child's responses. This means your child might receive questions from below or above their current grade level, depending on how they answer the on-grade-level questions.
 - **Example:** A 5th-grade student taking the math growth assessment will mostly get 5th-grade questions. However, based on their answers, they might also get some 4th-grade or 6th-grade questions.
- **Testing Schedule:** Students in grades 3-5 take these growth assessments twice a year—once in the fall and once in the winter (mid-year).
- **Additional SOL Tests:** Besides the growth assessments, students will continue to take the regular SOL tests for reading and math in grades 3-5

5. CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)

The CogAT is used in 3rd grade as a universal screener for identifying gifted students. Here's what you need to know:

- **Timing:** The test is administered to all 3rd-grade students between late October and early November each year.
- **Format:** The test is given online.
- **Scoring:** Students receive scores in four areas:
 - Verbal
 - Nonverbal

- Quantitative
 - Composite (overall score)
- **Identification:** Students who score 96 or higher are considered for gifted identification.

6. NNAT (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test)

The NNAT is a required, non-verbal test used to measure the general reasoning and problem-solving abilities of 2nd-grade students.

- **Purpose:** The NNAT is used to identify students for gifted services.
- **Grade Level:** Administered to all 2nd-grade students.
- **Format:** The test is given online.
- **Duration:** The test takes about 30 minutes to complete.
- **Timing:** The NNAT is administered once during the school year, typically in October or November.
- **Skills Assessed:** The test measures general reasoning and problem-solving abilities without relying on language skills.

7. WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment)

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment given only to English Learner (EL) students. Here's what you need to know:

- **Purpose:** This yearly assessment measures students' proficiency in academic English. Once students reach proficiency, they no longer need language support services.
- **Skills Assessed:** The test evaluates students' academic English language skills.
- **Format by Grade:**
 - **Kindergarten:** Uses stories and activities to keep young learners engaged.
 - **Grades 1-3:** Available in both computer-based and paper-and-pencil formats.
 - **Grades 4-5:** Administered in a computer-based format.
- **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs:** This version is for students with significant cognitive disabilities. It provides extra support and multiple opportunities for students to respond to test items.

- **No Need to Study:** Your child does not need to study for this test. It is an opportunity for them to show how well they understand and can communicate in English.

8. SOL IRW (Standards of Learning Integrated Reading and Writing)

The IRW component of the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments is administered to 5th-grade students in the spring. Here's what you need to know:

- **Purpose:** This assessment is designed to evaluate students' reading comprehension and writing skills at the same time.
- **Format:**
 - Students read a nonfiction passage.
 - They answer multiple-choice questions about the passage.
 - They write a short response related to the passage

9. IOWA – Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT)

The Iowa test is administered to all 5th-grade students in March.

- **Purpose:** This test helps determine if high-performing students need to be placed in 6th-grade extended math or 7th-grade extended math.
- **Format:** Last year, the test was given online. Previously, it was administered on paper.

10. VAAP (Virginia Alternate Assessment Program)

The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) is designed to evaluate the performance of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Here's what you need to know:

- **Purpose:** The VAAP assesses the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL), which are simplified versions of the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL). These standards have been adjusted to be more relevant, accessible, and appropriate for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- **Grade Levels:** The VAAP is administered to students in grades 3-8 and high school.
- **Subjects:** The assessment covers reading, mathematics, and science.
- **Format:** Each subject test consists of 35 multiple-choice questions.
- **Administration:** The test can be taken online or on paper.

11. Spring Non-writing SOL (Standards of Learning) and Expedited Retakes

The Standards of Learning (SOL) set expectations for what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade.

- **Subjects and Grades:**
 - **Reading:** Grades 3, 4, and 5
 - **Math:** Grades 3, 4, and 5
 - **Virginia History:** Grade 4
 - **Science:** Grade 5
- **Retake Opportunity:** Students who score between 375 and 399 on an SOL test have the opportunity to retake the test.
 - If the student passes the retake, the new score becomes their final score.

12. HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) Reading Growth Measure

The HMH Reading Growth Measure is a computer-adaptive test that tracks reading growth for students in grades 2-5. Here's what you need to know:

- **Testing Schedule:** The test is administered three times a year—in the fall, winter, and spring.
- **Purpose:**
 - Measures student performance against grade-level expectations.
 - Tracks student growth over time.
 - Informs teachers about how to tailor instruction to meet each student's needs.
- **Scores:** Each student receives:
 - **Grade Level Equivalence (GLE):** Indicates the grade level at which the student is performing.
 - **Scaled Score:** A numerical score that shows growth over time.
 - **Performance Level:** Categorized as Far Below, Below, Approaching, On Level, or Above Level.

13. HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) English Language Arts Unit/Module Assessments

The HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) English Language Arts Unit/Module Assessments are designed to evaluate students' understanding of the Virginia Reading Standards of Learning. Here's what you need to know:

- **Format:** Multiple-choice assessments with approximately 10-12 questions based on reading passages.
- **Frequency:** Administered eight times a year to students in grades 2-5.
- **Purpose:** These assessments measure how well students understand the reading standards covered in each unit of the curriculum using HMH In Reading.

14. EOU (End of Unit) Math Assessments

End-of-unit math assessments are given to students in grades 2-5 after each math unit. Here's what you need to know:

- **Purpose:** These tests evaluate multiple objectives taught during the unit. Each objective is graded separately.
- **Administration:**
 - The assessments are administered through Mastery Tracker, where all county tests are located.
 - Tests are typically uploaded for teachers two weeks before the testing window.
 - Each grade level follows a pacing guide to determine the duration of each unit.
- **Retake Opportunities:**
 - Retakes are usually offered in class about a week after the initial test.
 - Teachers provide remediation in class to help students prepare for retakes.

15. Assessment Schedule and Grades Overview

Assessments, Grades & Dates

Assessment	Grades	Dates
VALLSS		
Fall	123; K; Pre-K	9/3-9/27; 9/30-10/25; 10/7-11/01
Winter	K123; Pre-K	Elementary 1/13-2/7; Pre-K 1/6- 2/3
Spring	Pre-K; 123	4/21- 5/16
VKRP		
Fall	K; Pre-K	9/19-10/01; 9/23-10/18
Spring	Pre-K; K	4/7- 5/16
VGA (MATH)		
Fall	3-5	9/12 - 10/4
Winter	3-5	1/13 - 2/7
CoGAT	3	10/21 - 11/22
Naglieri	2	10/21 - 11/22
IOWA	5	3/20
WIDA	K-5	1/23 - 3/14
SOL IRW	5	3/10 - 3/27
VAAP/VESOL	3-5 (SPED	2/24 - 4/11
SOL Non-writing	3-5	4/23 - 5/20
Expedited Retakes		5/27 - 6/6



HMH and Math EOU
Assessments
ongoing for
Grades 2 - 5

