

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA) is a new test required for students in grades 3-8. The state legislature introduced this requirement to measure student growth and progress within the school year in reading and mathematics.

For fall 2021, VGA will address content that was taught in the previous school year. The purpose of this fall's VGA is to identify potential learning gaps resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no "passing" or "failing" outcome for the VGA. Results will provide a starting point to measure growth and will offer information about areas of strength and areas for growth in reading and mathematics.

Students enrolled in grades 3-8 will generally take an assessment in both reading and mathematics. However, elementary and middle school students enrolled in a high school credit-bearing math course, such as Algebra 1, will not take a VGA for mathematics.

The following points may help you and your student better understand this assessment.

- VGA must be taken in-person at school.
- This online, computer-adaptive test is about half as long as the spring SOL test.
- Questions use Standards of Learning (SOL)-like items to measure current knowledge and skills in the content area.
- Student results will be used to help school staff plan for instruction and supports.

Across Fairfax County, elementary and middle schools will give students the VGA in September or October. School staff will contact you with the specific dates your student is scheduled to take these assessments.

If you have questions about this state assessment for your student, please contact the school test coordinator at your student's school, Tia Hawkins, tnhawkins@fcps.edu.

