



Growth Assessments

Legislation passed in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly ([HB2027](#) and [SB1357](#)) required the implementation of “through-year” or “growth” assessments for reading and mathematics in grades 3-8. To ensure that the growth assessments administered for this purpose are aligned to the Standards of Learning (SOL), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) developed shorter computer adaptive tests (CAT) using existing SOL test items.

The legislation requires that the grades 3-8 reading and mathematics growth assessments be administered to students once in the fall and once in the winter (mid-year) during the school year. In addition to the growth assessments, the SOL tests for grade 3-8 reading and mathematics will continue to be administered.

In compliance with the 2021 legislation, the CAT algorithm has been configured so that the student might be administered some items from below or above the current grade level depending on the student’s responses to the on-grade-level content items. For example, students taking the grade 5 mathematics growth assessment will primarily be administered grade 5 test items; however, depending on the student’s responses to the on-grade-level test items, the student may also be administered some grade 4 test items or some grade 6 test items.

There are exceptions to the potential administration of off-grade-level items. The grade 8 reading and mathematics growth assessments only include items assessing SOL content that is at or below the 8th grade level since there are no items assessing content above grade 8 in the current CAT items banks. In addition, a student who meets the criteria for a paper test will only be administered test items that assess SOL content aligned with the student's grade level.