

Virginia

Standards of Learning Assessments

Test Blueprint
Grade 8 Reading
2024 English
Standards of Learning

This test blueprint will be effective with the administration of the spring 2025 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.

Grade 8 Reading Standards of Learning

Test Blueprint

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General Test Information

Test Blueprint

Much like the blueprint for a building, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction. The blueprint indicates the content standards that will be addressed by the test and the number of items that will be included by reporting category and for the test as a whole. There is a blueprint for each test (e.g., Grade 3 Reading, Grade 5 Mathematics, Grade 8 Science, Virginia and United States History).

The Grade 8 Reading test blueprint contains information for two types of tests, the online computer adaptive test (CAT) and the traditional/paper format test. A CAT is an online assessment that is customized for every student based on how the student responds to the questions. This is in contrast to the traditional/paper format test in which all students who take a particular version (paper, large print, or braille) of the test respond to the same test questions. All online versions of the Grade 8 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) test (including audio) are computer adaptive.

All students are required to take the online version of the SOL tests except for students who meet the criteria for needing a paper test. All paper versions of the test (including large print and braille) will be administered using the traditional/paper format. All test questions for Grade 8 Reading have been determined to meet the criteria for Universal Design. The Universal Design principles require that language that is not specific to the content area (e.g., reading) be simplified and test questions be written so they are accessible by all populations of students. The SOL test questions have been reviewed by Virginia teachers and have been determined to meet the criteria for Universal Design.

Reporting Categories

Each test covers a number of standards. In the test blueprint, the SOL are grouped into reporting categories that address related content and skills. For example, a reporting category for the Grade 8 Reading SOL test is *Demonstrate comprehension of informational texts and use vocabulary development and word analysis strategies*. Each of the SOL in this reporting category require a student to use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension of grade-level complex informational texts. When the results of the SOL tests are reported, the scores will be presented for each reporting category and as a test scaled score.

Assignment of Standards of Learning to Reporting Category

In the Grade 8 Reading SOL test, each standard is assigned to only one reporting category as described by the Grade 8 Reading SOL. For example, SOL 8.RI.1 is assigned to *Demonstrate comprehension of informational texts and use vocabulary development and word analysis strategies*.

Coverage of Standards of Learning

Due to the large number of SOL in each grade level content area, every standard will not be assessed on every SOL test. By necessity, to keep the length of a test reasonable, each test will sample from the SOL within a reporting category. All SOL are eligible for inclusion on the traditional/paper forms as well as the CAT forms.

Passage Set

A passage set is a set of items associated with a single text, a single text and companion graphic with description, or a pair of texts. All reading passage sets are determined ***grade-level appropriate*** by a committee of Virginia educators prior to administration on the Reading SOL tests, with consideration to

reading load. *Students receive no more than one pair of texts per test administration in grades 3-8.* All Reading SOL content, including at End-of-Course, is tested within a passage set and no longer in standalone items.

Use of 2024 Reading Standards of Learning Resource Documents

The Grade 8 Reading SOL, amplified by the Understanding the Standards and Progression Charts documents, define the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills that are measured by the SOL tests. These resources include the understandings and key concepts that assist teachers in planning standards-focused instruction of the 2024 Reading SOL.

Additional Items

Per legislation passed in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly ([HB2027](#) and [SB1357](#)), the computer adaptive SOL tests include a section of additional items at the end of the test. The computer algorithm may deliver items one grade level above or one grade level below a student's current grade based upon the student's responses to the on-grade-level items. The Test Scaled Score (0 to 600) and corresponding performance level (i.e., pass/proficient, pass/advanced, fail/basic, fail/below basic) are based upon a student's performance on the on-grade-level Operational Items only. The student's responses to the on-grade-level Operational Items *and* the Additional Items that may be on grade level, one grade level above, or one grade level below the current grade level will be reflected in the student's Vertical Scaled Score.

Assessment Resources

[Standards of Learning Introduction to TestNav 8: Multiple-Choice/Technology-Enhanced Item Tests](#): This document is an introduction to the online navigation, online tools, accessibility features, and overall functionality and appearance of multiple-choice/technology-enhanced item tests in TestNav 8. It is highly recommended that teachers or other adults read this document prior to reading the Guided Practice Suggestions for a practice item set. This document also provides an overview of the various technology-enhanced items students may receive in the online test.

[SOL Practice Items](#): Practice item sets are available for each grade to provide online practice with content that measures the 2024 Reading SOL.

Guided Practice Suggestions: Reading Items Practice: This document, available on the [SOL Practice Items](#) web page, provides specific suggestions for teachers as they lead students through a practice item set. Following these suggestions will ensure that students are exposed to the different tools within TestNav, the different functionality features of technology-enhanced items (TEI), and common messages that may appear as students complete TEI.

Grade 8 Reading Test Blueprint Summary Table

Reporting Category	Grade 8 SOL	Number of Items Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) Format	Number of Items Traditional (Paper) Format
Demonstrate comprehension of literary texts and use vocabulary development and word analysis strategies*	8.RV 8.RL.1 8.RL.2 8.RL.3	12-16 39-52% of test	20 About 44% of test
Demonstrate comprehension of informational texts and use vocabulary development and word analysis strategies*	8.RV 8.RI.1 8.RI.2 8.RI.3	15-19 48-61% of test	25 About 56% of test
Number of Operational Texts/Items		31 4 passage sets**	45 5 passage sets**
Number of Field-Test Texts/Items***		6 1 passage set**	6 1 passage set**
Number of Additional On- or Off-Grade-Level Texts/Items****		5 1 passage set**	0
The online CAT includes multiple-choice questions and technology-enhanced items (TEI). The number of TEI on the CAT can range from 5% to 30% as the test meets the blueprint requirements and adapts to the performance level of the individual student.			
Integrated Reading and Writing Component (This component of the reading test is administered on a different day.)	Grade 8 SOL	Number of Items Online and Traditional (Paper) Format	
Number of Operational Items associated with 1 on-grade-level informational passage set**	8.RV 8.RI.1 8.RI.2 8.RI.3	6	
	8.W 8.LU	1 writing prompt	

**Vocabulary development and word analysis* will be tested with both literary and informational texts.

**Please refer to Passage Set information on page 4.

***Field-test items will be administered to students for potential use on subsequent tests and will not be used to compute the final test score.

****Legislation passed in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly ([HB2027](#) and [SB1357](#)) requires these assessments have the ability to contain additional test items at, below, and above a student's grade level as appropriate for the student. All test items will be delivered online via the computer adaptive algorithm. Students who meet the criteria for a paper test will receive only on-grade-level items.