



## VQB5: VIRGINIA’S UNIFIED MEASUREMENT AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Virginia’s early childhood system must ensure that **all** children have quality teaching and learning experiences that meet their unique needs. To do this, Virginia has developed the **Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5)** which recognizes the impact of every classroom, provides feedback to every educator, and supports all publicly funded birth-to-five programs to improve.

### WHAT IS VQB5?

VQB5 is a measurement and improvement system that focuses on the quality of all publicly-funded birth-five classrooms and supports families to choose quality programming across different program types. VQB5 sets shared expectations for measuring quality and supporting teachers for all birth to five programs. Through VQB5, teachers and leaders will receive the feedback and support they need to help young children learn.

### WHO IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VQB5?

By fall 2023, all publicly-funded programs will be required to participate in VQB5 with ratings shared publicly in fall 2024. In Virginia, this includes:

- Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Title I Preschool
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Child Care Centers and Family Day Homes that participate in the child care subsidy program.
- Other public funds that support child enrollment. See [VQB5 Participation FAQs](#) for details.

VQB5 will have two practice years. Practice Year 1 began in July 2021. 1500+ publicly-funded programs currently in the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) are participating in the first practice year. Eligible child care and family day home teachers may receive up to \$2,000 as part of the [Teacher Recognition Program](#) when they are in a participating program.

### WHEN WILL THE NEW SYSTEM BE IN PLACE?

VQB5 Practice Year 1 is currently underway! Over the next few years, VDOE will work with a variety of stakeholders to implement and scale VQB5. This includes implementing two practice years as shown in the timeline below. All programs will have an opportunity to participate in at least one practice year.

2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>VQB5 Practice Year 1 began July 2021</b> Participation available in current <a href="#">PDG communities</a> (Available to 85% of programs)</li></ul>
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>VQB5 Practice Year 2 begins July 2022</b> Participation will be available through <a href="#">Ready Regions</a> (Available to 100% of programs)</li></ul>
2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>VQB5 Year 1 begins July 2023</b> All publicly funded programs required to participate, including child care subsidy, VPI, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education. Quality Ratings from Year 1 will be publicly shared in the fall of 2024</li></ul>

### HOW WILL VQB5 MEASURE QUALITY?

VQB5 will measure the quality of infant, toddler and preschool teaching and learning based on two nationally-recognized quality indicators: Interactions and Curriculum.

- **How will interactions be measured in VQB5?** Teacher-child interactions will be measured using the [Classroom Assessment Scoring System \(CLASS\)](#). The CLASS is an observational tool that looks at multiple age appropriate aspects of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development. CLASS observations will be conducted twice annually in every classroom by trained and reliable observers.
- **How will curriculum use be measured in VQB5?** As a first step to support curriculum use in all programs, the new system will recognize programs that use an [approved curriculum](#) in at least one classroom. Support to obtain a curriculum will be provided to programs participating in the practice years.

### HOW CAN PROGRAMS PREPARE FOR VQB5?

The best way to prepare for VQB5 is to participate in the "practice years". The practice years allow teachers and program leaders to learn about the new measurement process and identify strengths and specific areas for improvement. Program results will be shared with program leaders for informational purposes only. Information about Practice Year 1 activities and helpful resources for program leaders are available in the [VQB5 Practice Year 1 Implementation Guide](#).

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING IN THE PRACTICE YEARS OF VQB5?

Programs that participate in Practice Years of VQB5 through PDG will be able to:

- Receive feedback on the teacher-child interactions in every infant, toddler and preschool classroom, including family day homes
- Access to supports, training and resources to help improve interactions and curriculum.
- Receive a financial incentive of \$2000 for participation for certain eligible teachers through the [Teacher Recognition Program](#)

### HOW WILL VQB5 STRENGTHEN VIRGINIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM?

VQB5 will help build a stronger early care and education system in the Commonwealth by...

- Providing useful data for educators and stakeholders;
- Aligning and strengthen infrastructure to support quality improvement;
- Enabling collaboration across program types;
- Deepening family engagement by making program quality understandable and comparable;
- Demonstrating the positive impact of early childhood in order to increase investment in quality care.

Additional information about VQB5 is available on [Building a Unified Early Childhood System](#) website.

If you have questions or other feedback, please email [kris.meyers@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:kris.meyers@doe.virginia.gov)

