



VQB5 PARTICIPATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Updated May 2022)

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.

By fall 2023, all publicly-funded programs will be required to participate with ratings shared publicly in fall 2024. Early childhood programs that do not receive any public funds will have the option to participate.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A “PUBLICLY FUNDED PROVIDER”?

“Publicly funded provider” means any:

- Educational program provided by a school division or local government to children between birth and age five (or)
- Child day program serving three or more unrelated children that receives state or federal funds in support of its operations.

WHAT FUNDING SOURCES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE “PUBLICLY FUNDED”?

The definition is intended to include all funding sources that support **direct early childhood care and educational services** for young children. These funding sources include:

- Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE or IDEA Part B, Section 619 preschool)
- Title I Preschool
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Virginia’s Child Care Subsidy Program
- Local child care assistance, such as Fairfax’s Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) program
- The federal Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) Mixed Delivery program
- Federal Department of Defense military child care fee assistance (MCCYN)

WILL PROGRAMS THAT RECEIVE FUNDING FOR THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP) BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VQB5?

“Publicly funded provider” does not include any program for which the sole source of public funding is the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. CACFP provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers and family day care homes, but does not directly fund care and educational services. Therefore, if a program receives CACFP but does not receive any other source of public funds in support of its operations, they are not required to participate.

WILL PROGRAMS THAT ONLY RECEIVE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY FUNDS FOR THEIR SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VQB5?

No. The requirement only applies to publicly funded early childhood care and education programs that serve children **between the ages of birth to five**.

WILL PROGRAMS THAT ACCEPT SUBSIDY FOR BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE OR SUMMER CAMPS BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VQB5?

No. Publicly funded early care and education programs that **only** provide before/after school care or summer camps for children ages birth to five are not required to participate in VQB5.

WILL PROGRAMS THAT ACCEPT SUBSIDY BUT AREN'T CURRENTLY SERVING ANY CHILDREN THROUGH SUBSIDIES BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VQB5?

Yes. All **approved subsidy vendors** will be required to participate in VQB5. More information about how to become a subsidy vendor is available from the Virginia Department of Education.

WILL ADULTS WHO RECEIVE SUBSIDY FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN AND/OR OTHER RELATED CHILDREN BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VQB5?

No. Only subsidy vendors that serve **three or more unrelated children** in support of their operations will be required to participate.

ARE COVID-RELATED GRANTS, LOANS, OR MATERIAL SUPPORTS CONSIDERED PUBLIC FUNDS?

Programs that receive **temporary** state or federal support during the COVID pandemic--such as ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grants, state CARES grants, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loans, other loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA), or PPE donations--but accept no other public funding sources to support their typical operations would not be required to participate in VQB5.

WILL PROGRAMS THAT OPERATE ON A PART-TIME BASIS BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

No. Only publicly funded programs that operate full time will be required to participate (*full-time refers to an early care or education program which operates at least four days per week for at least 128 days per year, with classes that operate for a minimum of 3.5 hours per day*).

ARE PUBLICLY FUNDED PROGRAMS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRACTICE YEARS FOR VQB5?

Participation in the final 2022-2023 VQB5 Practice Year is strongly encouraged for all publicly funded programs, but not required.

CAN NON-PUBLICLY FUNDED PROGRAMS PARTICIPATE IN THE PRACTICE YEAR?

Sites that do not receive public funds have the option to participate in the practice year if they choose to do so, with the understanding that support for publicly funded programs will be prioritized.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE 2022-2023 PRACTICE YEAR?

- **Ready Regions** will invite programs to register between August 1 - September 16.
- To learn more, complete this [interest form](#) and Ready Regions representative will follow up.

If you have questions about VQB5 or other feedback, please email yqb5@doe.virginia.gov