**Practice Year 2**

**2022-2023**



VQB5 Implementation Guide for Program Leaders

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| **INTRODUCTION** |

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.

VQB5 strengthens the quality of teaching and learning experiences in early childhood programs that serve infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, by setting shared expectations for measuring quality and supporting teachers for all birth to five programs. Through VQB5, teachers and leaders receive the feedback and support they need to help young children learn.

**By fall 2023, all** [**publicly-funded programs**](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/updated-ec-quality-req-faq-may-22.docx) **will be required to participate with site quality profiles shared publicly in fall 2024. Early childhood programs that do not receive any public funds will have the option to participate.**

**PRACTICE YEARS**

VQB5 has two practice years. These practice years allow program leaders and teachers the chance to practice the annual measurement and improvement cycle, which includes collecting information and receiving feedback. Practice year results are for information only and will be used to guide professional development options.

* Practice Year 1 took place during the 2021-2022 year. Over 1500+ sites from across Virginia participated through the Preschool Development Grant communities. Results from Practice Year 1 will be shared with site-administrators in the fall of 2022.
* Practice Year 2 will take place during the 2022-2023 year. This is the **final** opportunity for programs to practice and prepare for the new system. Site Quality Profiles, which will include results from Practice Year 2, will be shared privately with site administrators in the fall of 2023.

Registration for the Practice Year 2 will occur between **Aug.1st -Sept. 16th, 2022** through [Ready Regions](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/). Programs that participated in VQB5 Practice Year 1, will be invited to register for continued participation by registering for Practice Year 2 beginning in August.

**BENEFITS OF PRACTICE YEAR PARTICIPATION**

By participating in the Practice Years, your program will receive:

* Training and support, including CLASS training and resources, to strengthen quality
* Financial recognition for eligible educators at publicly funded childcare centers and family day homes of up to $2,500 through [RecognizeB5](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/recognize-b5-flyer-2022.pdf)
* A “practice VQB5 rating” for site administrators (practice ratings are not posted publicly)

**MEASURING QUALITY**

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

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| **INTERACTIONS** | **CURRICULUM** |
| Teacher-child interactions are measured in a developmentally appropriate way using the [Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)](https://teachstone.com/class/). | Curriculum is measured by recognizing programs that use [VDOE approved curricula](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/index.shtml) that are aligned with Virginia’s Early Learning and Development Standards |

Interactions and curriculum were chosen because research shows high quality teacher-child interactions and quality early childhood curriculum promote children’s learning and development, resulting in improved school readiness.

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| **VQB5 PARTNERS** |

The following list provides an overview of the partners who will support your program during Practice Year 2.

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| **VQB5 Partners** | **Primary Role & Responsibilities in VQB5** | **Website/Contact Information** |
| **Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)** | VDOE developed the unified measurement and improvement system, called VQB5. The VDOE provides state leadership, funding and support for VQB5 and participating programs. | **Website** : [Quality Measurement and Improvement (VQB5)](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/vqb5/index.shtml)  **Primary Contact**: [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov) |
| **Ready Regions** | Ready Regions coordinate VQB5 at the regional level. Each Ready Region has a VQB5 staff who are responsible for scheduling and coordinating local CLASS observations and connecting VQB5 programs to improvement supports. | **Website**: [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) - Ready Regions](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/)  **Primary Regional Contacts**: Click on the Ready Regions map, *via the website listed above,* to find the regional contact information for your location.  For questions regarding [RecognizeB5](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/recognize-b5-flyer-2022.pdf), a core component of VQB5, email the VECF team at [RecognizeB5@vecf.org](mailto:RecognizeB5@vecf.org). |
| **LinkB5 Team** | LinkB5 is a website that connects communities of early childhood providers and is the home of the data system for VQB5. The LinkB5 Team provides on-demand resources as well as live technical support to help VQB5 participants complete data entry tasks. | **Websites** : [LinkB5 Login page](https://linkb5.virginia.edu/user/login) and [LinkB5 Resources](https://resources.linkb5.virginia.edu/hc/en-us)  Primary Contact: [linkb5support@virginia.edu](mailto:linkb5support@virginia.edu)  1-833-554-6525  Live technical chat-support accessible from the LinkB5 website. |
| **Improvement Partners** | Improvement partners in Virginia will work closely with Ready Regions to ensure there are professional development options available to VQB5 programs for improving interactions, as measured by CLASS and curriculum. | **Websites for VQB5 Improvement Partners**:   * [Virginia Infant Toddler Specialist Network (VA ITSN)](https://va.gapitc.org/) * [Advancing Effective Interactions and Instruction (AEII)](https://aeiionline.org/) * [Virginia Quality (VQ)](https://www.virginiaquality.com/) * [Training and Technical Assistance Centers (TTAC)](https://ttaconline.org/) * [STREAMin3](https://streamin3.org/)   *Contact your Ready Regions Lead for additional improvement partners in your area who support early childhood programs.* |
| **Statewide External Observation Team** | Statewide VQB5 External Observations will be coordinated by Teachstone’s External Observation Team. Every site participating in Practice Year 2 of VQB5 will receive at least one external observation. The external observations will be in addition to the local observations coordinated by Ready Regions. | **Email:** [VAexternalobservations@teachstone.com](mailto:VAexternalobservations@teachstone.com)  **Website (**Coming Soon!**)** |

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| **VQB5 ACTIVITIES** |

There are **three primary activities** that your program will need to complete during Practice Year 2 of the Unified VQB5 System.

* **ACTIVITY #1 - Register and Use LinkB5** - The [LinkB5 data portal](https://linkb5.virginia.edu/user/login) is the website where programs register and enter information required for VQB5.

* + VQB5 Registration is the first required step. It includes creating site and teacher profiles, and registering classrooms, and **must be completed between August. 1st and Sept. 16th**.
    - To complete site profiles, enter information such as public funding sources received by your program.
    - Teachers (lead/assistant teachers , family day home providers) will need to enter information about their work as an educator.
    - Registering classrooms includes sharing information such as classroom curriculum use and operating hours.
    - VQB5 registration is a **required step** for all sites participating in VQB5 Practice Year 2 as well as for educators (*lead and assistant teachers, family day home providers*) to be considered for eligibility to receive the [RecognizeB5](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/recognize-b5-flyer-2022.pdf) incentive.
  + LinkB5 will be used throughout Practice Year 2 to collect classroom information. During the year, you will use LinkB5 for the following activities:
    - Entering and/or viewing CLASS scores from fall and spring local observations.
      * Local Observers enter CLASS scores into LinkB5
      * Site Administrators review and approve local CLASS scores
      * Site Administrators can view and share CLASS scores via the CLASS export reports.
    - Updating information about classroom curriculum use.
* **ACTIVITY #2 - Prepare for and Complete Local CLASS Observations** - Each classroom will have two local CLASS observations in Practice Year 2, one in the fall and one in the spring. Ready Regions will coordinate and schedule your local observations. You will receive feedback from every local CLASS observation your site receives.
  + The [CLASS](https://teachstone.com/) tool is used to measure and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions in every infant, toddler and preschool classroom, including family day homes.
    - Infant CLASS will be used to observe classrooms/programs that serve birth-18 months
    - Toddler CLASS will be used to observe classrooms/programs that serve 15-36 months
    - Pre-K CLASS will be used to observe classrooms/programs that serve 3-5 year old’s.
    - Mixed Age Settings, such as family day homes, use the CLASS tool that aligns with the age of the majority of children served.
  + If you or your teachers are new to CLASS, your Ready Region will provide opportunities for Foundational CLASS training before being observed.
    - [Get to Know the CLASS - View Summaries of the Infant, Toddler and PreK CLASS tools in English and Spanish, along with Birth to Five Alignment Summaries.](https://aeiionline.org/advancing-effective-interactions-and-instruction-2/tools-resources/for-observing-interactions-instruction/)
  + Some classrooms will also receive an *external CLASS observation*, conducted by Teachstone’s external observation team. All sites participating in VQB5 Practice Year 2 should expect to have at least one external observation during the 2022-2023 year. This means some classrooms will have 3 observations total (two local and one external)
    - Information gathered from external observations during the practice years is used to support local observers so that educators receive consistent observations and to provide programs with additional feedback.
* **ACTIVITY #3 - Plan to Access and Use an Approved Curriculum** - VQB5 will recognize programs that use an approved curriculum in at least one classroom during Practice Year 2. You will need to enter your program’s curriculum information in the LinkB5 data portal by May 31, 2023.

The following [options](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/ec-curriculum-options-vqb5-py2-june-2022-updates-ccm.docx) are available to VQB5 programs who want to access and use an approved curriculum.

* + **Option #1** - Request a curriculum review. Curriculum review information can be found on the [VDOE Standards, Curriculum and Instruction](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/index.shtml) website. Curriculum reviews are based on national research for [effective curricula](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/about-curriculum-consumer-report/criteria-effective-curricula) and alignment with [Virginia’s Early Learning and Development Standards](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/va-elds-birth-5.pdf).
  + **Option #2** - Choose and use one of the more than 40 already approved curriculum options from the VDOE list, which can be found on the VDOE [Standards, Curriculum and Instruction](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/index.shtml) website. (List is updated monthly)
    - The approved list options include the state funded, open-resource, birth to five curriculum option, [STREAMin3](https://streamin3.org/) (available at no-to-low cost for all publicly funded programs).
      * [Learn more about the STREAMin3 curriculum](https://streamin3.org/streamin%c2%b3-curriculum-model-2/contact-us/)
      * [Sign up to receive the STREAMin3 curriculum](https://streamin3.org/streamin%c2%b3-curriculum-model-2/get-the-curriculum/request-curriculum-form/)

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| **ACTIVITY TIMELINE** |

The chart below summarizes what programs need to do during each phase of Practice Year 2.

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| **SUMMER 2022**  FOCUS - Complete VQB5 Registration in LinkB5 between August 1st-Sept. 16th and prepare for fall CLASS Observations | | |
| **LINKB5** - Complete site and teacher registration profiles in LinkB5 by Sept. 16th.   * Determination of teachers eligible for [RecognizeB5](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/recognize-b5-flyer-2022.pdf) is based on registration profiles and finalized post-registration closure. | **CLASS** - Prepare for CLASS observations by completing introduction or refresher training. Information about CLASS training options are available through your Ready Region. | **CURRICULUM** - Plan to use an approved curriculum in at least one classroom by May 31, 2023. |
| **FALL 2022**  FOCUS - Complete local fall CLASS observations in every infant, toddler and preschool classroom and family day home between August 22nd - Dec. 23rd, 2022 | | |
| **LINKB5** – Ensure that scores from fall CLASS observations are entered and approved in LinkB5 by Dec. 23rd. Access your site’s local observation scores via the CLASS export reports. | **CLASS** - As fall local observations are completed in each classroom, review observation scores and feedback with your teachers to identify strengths and areas to work on. | **CURRICULUM** - Plan to use an approved curriculum in at least one classroom by May 31, 2023. |
| **WINTER 2023**  FOCUS - Use information from fall to engage in professional development based on site and classroom needs. | | |
| **LINKB5** - Access your site’s local observation scores via the CLASS export reports. | **CLASS -** Use fall observation results to engage teachers in professional development activities to support quality improvement goals. | **CURRICULUM** - Plan to use an approved curriculum in at least one classroom by May 31, 2023. |
| **SPRING 2023**  FOCUS - Complete local spring CLASS observations in every infant, toddler and preschool classroom and family day home between Jan. 23rd -June 9th 2023. | | |
| **LINKB5** - Update lists of teachers and classrooms, including information about curriculum use (if needed).    Ensure that scores from spring CLASS observations are entered and approved in LinkB5 by June 9th. Access CLASS scores via the CLASS export reports. | **CLASS** - As local observations are completed in each classroom, review CLASS observation scores and feedback with your teachers to identify strengths and areas to work on.  **END OF YEAR REFLECTION**  Use your CLASS and curriculum results to think about what worked well this past year and to help prepare for VQB5 2023-2024. | **CURRICULUM -** Update curriculum information in LinkB5 classroom profiles by May 31st, 2023 (if needed) |

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| **DETERMINING PRACTICE YEAR 2 RESULTS** |

During the summer of 2023, VDOE will use your site's fall and spring local CLASS observations, along with your curriculum information, to determine your site’s Practice Year 2 results. This information will be included in a site quality profile.

**SITE QUALITY PROFILES**

VQB5 Site Quality Profiles will include information about performance on VQB5 measurements and other topics of interest to families, policymakers, and the general public.

* During Practice Year 2, VDOE will lead an interactive process with families, practitioners and stakeholders to develop a site quality profile prototype.
* Site Quality Profiles for Practice Year 2 will be shared privately with site administrators in the fall of 2023.

As part of finalizing the guidelines for VQB5 Year 1 (2023-2024), the Board of Education, with recommendation from the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC), will review and approve the final version of the site quality profile.

**WHO GETS A SITE QUALITY PROFILE?**

Each program will receive one Site Quality Profile. For VQB5, a program is defined as one site based on the physical location. Each site (e.g., each public school location, each child care center, etc.) will receive one site quality profile, which will include their site’s practice rating, based on the measures obtained during the practice year. This means each school, child care center, or family day home will receive a rating specific to their physical location.

**PRACTICE RATING**

The following point system will be used to determine the overall site practice rating for Practice Year 2:

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| **Interactions Points**  ***(700 total points)*** | Average local CLASS observation scores from the fall and the spring (*average total dimension score for* *all eligible classrooms* at a site) x 100 |
| **Curriculum Points**  ***(100 total points)*** | Sites using an approved curriculum in *at least one classroom* will receive 100 points added to their score |
| **Total Points** | Interactions Points + Curriculum Points = Total Points |
| **VQB5 Practice Year Rating** | Exceeds Practice Year Expectations = 700 - 800 points  Meets Practice Year Expectations = 400 - 699 points  Needs Support = 100 - 399 points |

The site results are based on measurement data collected from fall and spring Local CLASS observations entered into the LinkB5 system, and from classroom curriculum information collected from the LinkB5 site profile.

**Practice Rating Scale**

The following scale describes how well sites are meeting the quality standards during the Practice Years as approved by the Virginia Board of Education in the [VQB5 Guidelines for Practice Year 2](https://www.scorecard.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/early-childhood/2021/measurement-improvement-system-guidelines-ECAC-0323.docx).

* **Exceeds Practice Year Expectations** - The program has demonstrated performance that considerably surpasses the established standard for the practice years.
* **Meets Practice Year Expectations** - The program has demonstrated performance that is consistent with the state’s mission and goals for the practice years.
* **Needs Support** - The program demonstrated performance that is inconsistent with the state’s mission and goals for the practice year. Programs that fall into this category will be a priority for improvement support.

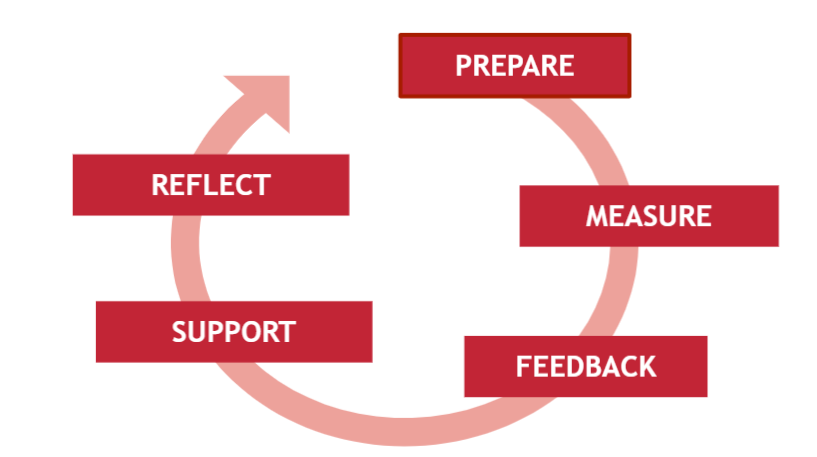
Practice Year results are not posted publicly. Site administrators are encouraged to share their local CLASS scores and Practice Year 2 results with Ready Regions and other improvement partners to guide Professional Development (PD). Sites that fall into the “Needs Support” category will be a priority for PD support.

State level results from Practice Year 2 will be used to make sure VQB5 is effective and fair for all site types, as well as to improve the system for future years.

Additional information about VQB5 practice year rating calculations for CLASS and Curriculum points can be found in the **appendix**, at the end of this document**.**

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| **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CYCLE** |

An important feature of VQB5 is that measurement and improvement are ongoing. You and your staff will have many opportunities to reflect on your progress during the year using a continuous quality improvement cycle.



**PREPARE**: All teachers and leaders prepare for the annual cycle of measurement by learning about what will be measured and why it’s important. This includes learning about the CLASS tool and options for accessing a quality curriculum.

**MEASURE**: All infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms, including family day homes are observed with the CLASS tool. Information about curriculum use is also collected to understand the experience of all children.

**FEEDBACK**: Each time a classroom is observed, feedback is provided to the teacher(s) and program leaders. Feedback includes information about classroom strengths and areas for growth.

**SUPPORT**: Program leaders and teachers are able to identify and access professional development supports that meet the unique needs of their program. To discuss professional development options in your area, please contact your [Ready Region lead](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/).

**REFLECTION**: As the measurement cycle for the year closes and results are shared, educators reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year. Programs begin to prepare for the next annual measurement and improvement cycle based on their reflections.

Additional information and resources to support improvement in interactions and curriculum can be found in the [Toolkit for Strengthening Quality: Resource Roundup for Birth-to-Five Leaders](https://virginia.app.box.com/s/q8gaa1qaf0dkgveaq4pnkc7edwoctixd).

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| **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** |

**FAQs VQB5 Participation**

* **What is the definition of ‘publicly funded provider’?**
  + "Publicly funded provider" means any educational program provided by a school division or government for children between birth and age five. This includes all federal, state and local government funding sources that support direct early childhood care and educational services for young children.
  + See [VQB5 Participation FAQ’s](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/updated-ec-quality-req-faq-may-22.docx) for additional information and a list of public funding sources in Virginia.
* **How will the site quality profile and rating be determined if our program is located at the same location as another program?** 
  + In general, sites that receive multiple sources of public funding will receive one site quality profile, which will include their site’s practice rating, based on the measures obtained during the practice year from all eligible classrooms at the site’s location.
  + In a few rare situations where there are multiple programs with differing governing bodies located at the same physical location, and children from each program are enrolled and served in different classrooms, programs may request to be rated separately (i.e. separate site quality profiles) by emailing [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov).

**FAQs RecognizeB5**

* **What is RecognizeB5?** 
  + A core component of VQB5, coordinated through Ready Regions, **RecognizeB5** is a state-wide strategy for supporting, retaining, and rewarding early educators in *non-public school* birth to five publicly-funded settings. The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) is responsible for the operation and implementation of RecognizeB5.
* **Who is eligible for the** [**RecognizeB5**](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/recognize-b5-flyer-2022.pdf) **financial incentive?**
  + Educators (*lead and assistant teachers*) NOT employed/paid by a public school division are eligible if they meet the following three requirements;
    - They have registered for participation in VQB5 Practice Year 2 through LinkB5 by the **registration deadline** of **Friday September 16, 2022,**
    - They work in a child care center or Family Day Home that is participating in VQB5 AND accepts public-funds (such as the child care subsidy program),
    - They continually work in a 0-5 classroom setting for at least 30 hours or more per week directly with children not yet in Kindergarten.
* **What are VQB5 participating sites required to do regarding RecognizeB5?** 
  + Once sites and teachers are registered for VQB5 in LinkB5, VECF will confirm teachers that are eligible to participate in RecognizeB5 based on current year registration records.
  + In October, eligible teachers will be contacted by VECF directly with additional information regarding their *optional* participation in this component of VQB5.
  + To verify whether teachers have continued to maintain eligibility throughout the program year, Site Administrators will be required to complete two (2) yearly online **Teacher Employment Verification Requests** (in **January** and **May**)*before* direct incentive payments are released.
  + VECF will issue these employment verification requests to Site Administrators by email with instructions for completion.
  + Questions about RecognizeB5 can be sent via email to [RecognizeB5@vecf.org](mailto:RecognizeB5@vecf.org)

**FAQs CLASS and Curriculum**

* **Why is VQB5 measuring CLASS and Curriculum?**
  + Research shows that stimulating and supportive interactions between teachers and children and effective use of quality curricula promote children’s holistic learning and development,resulting in improved school readiness.
  + Review the ***Connecting CLASS and Curriculum*** resources for [Infant/Toddler](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/connecting-Infant-toddler-class-curriculum.docx) and [Pre-K](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/connecting-prek-class-curriculum.docx) for more information on this connection.
* **What is covered during Foundational CLASS training?** 
  + Foundational CLASS training is introductory level training for teachers and program leaders who are new to the CLASS tool.
    - Foundational CLASS training for teachers focuses on the CLASS tool that covers the age level of the children in their classroom. It explains how the CLASS tool organizes interactions for a specific age level. It also explains what teachers can expect during an observation.
    - Foundational CLASS training for program leaders focuses on CLASS tools for different age levels in the program. It explains how leaders can use the CLASS tool to set program goals and guide improvement efforts.
  + To access free Foundational CLASS training and resources, please contact your [Ready Region lead](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/).
* **When will we receive feedback after our local CLASS observations?**
  + The observer (or assigned feedback provider) will schedule a time to meet with each teacher or teaching team. This typically occurs within 2 weeks of the observation.
  + Site Administrators can also access CLASS scores from local observations via their [LinkB5](https://linkb5.virginia.edu/user/login) accounts. Site administrators are encouraged to share their CLASS scores with Ready Regions and other improvement partners to help guide professional development. Instructions for accessing and understanding the CLASS export reports can be found on the [LinkB5 Resources website](https://resources.linkb5.virginia.edu/hc/en-us).
* **Is the use of a VDOE-approved curriculum required for VQB5?**
  + No. Programs who choose to access and use a VDOE-approved curriculum option in at least one classroom will receive 100 points towards their total practice score.
* **What should we do if we have a question or a concern about how a local CLASS observation was conducted?**
  + Site administrators should review the VDOE 2022-2023 Local Observation Guidebook available on the [VQB5 website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/vqb5/index.shtml), which includes the protocols and procedures for local CLASS observations coordinated by Ready Regions.
  + If the correct local observation procedures or protocols were not followed, contact [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov)

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| **HELPFUL RESOURCES** |

**VQB5 INFORMATION**

* VDOE Quality Measurement and Improvement (VQB5) - [LINK](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/vqb5/index.shtml)
* Ready Regions - [LINK](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/)
* LinkB5 Resources - [LINK](https://resources.linkb5.virginia.edu/hc/en-us)

**INTERACTIONS (As Measured by CLASS)**

* Get to Know CLASS - Age Level Summaries - [LINK](https://aeiionline.org/advancing-effective-interactions-and-instruction-2/tools-resources/for-observing-interactions-instruction/)
* Why CLASS? (e-book) - [LINK](http://info.teachstone.com/ebook-what-is-class?utm_term=&utm_campaign=&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_tgt=dsa-386718562248&hsa_grp=106349595833&hsa_src=g&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_mt=b&hsa_ver=3&hsa_ad=450830500548&hsa_acc=9624027010&hsa_kw=&hsa_cam=10627491112&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIotGR28_t6gIVmsDICh2QDQZFEAAYASAAEgLK0_D_BwE)
* CLASS Tips & Resources for Teachers **–** [LINK](https://teachstone.com/for-teachers/)
* Head Start In-Service Suites aligned with CLASS **-** [LINK](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/professional-development/article/15-minute-service-suites)
* Family Child Care & CLASS - [LINK](https://teachstone.com/family-child-care/)
* CLASS Spanish Suite - [LINK](https://teachstone.com/solutions/spanish-suite/)
* Using CLASS in Inclusive Early Childhood Programs - [LINK](http://info.teachstone.com/resources/research/special-needs-class-tool-report)
* Using CLASS in Settings with Dual Language Learners - [LINK](http://info.teachstone.com/white-paper-class-tool-dual-language-learners)
* Teachstone’s Virginia Support website - [LINK](https://teachstone.com/Virginia/)

**CURRICULUM**

* VDOE Early Childhood Standards, Curriculum & Instruction Website - [LINK](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/index.shtml)
* Curriculum & CLASS Connections - [Infant/Toddler](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/connecting-Infant-toddler-class-curriculum.docx) and [PreK](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/connecting-prek-class-curriculum.docx)
* STREAMin3 - [LINK](https://streamin3.org/)
* Curriculum and CLASS Crosswalks - [LINK](https://teachstone.com/search/crosswalks/)
* Head Start/ECLCK Curriculum Resources - [LINK](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum)
* Implementing Curriculum in a Responsive Environment, Birth to 5 - [LINK](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/teacher-time-series/implementing-curriculum-responsive-environment-birth-5)
* NAEYC High Quality Curriculum Information - [LINK](https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/curriculum-high-quality-classroom)
* ZERO to THREE: Infant/Toddler Curriculum & Individualization - [LINK](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/74-infant-and-toddler-curriculum-and-individualization)

Questions about VQB5 can be sent to [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov)

**APPENDIX** - **PRACTICE RATING CALCULATION**

Participating sites will receive an overall practice year rating at the end of Practice Year 2. Overall scores will range from 100-800 points, based on CLASS scores and the use of curriculum, and correspond to one of three levels on the practice rating scale, ranging from Needs Support to Exceeds Practice Year Expectations. The annual site quality rating is calculated at the end of the annual data collection cycle (i.e. end of the academic year).

**Calculating Interaction Points**

Interaction points are determined by using an overall CLASS average score for the site. This site score is calculated using the total average local CLASS dimension scores from every eligible classroom including both fall and spring results, based on classroom registration information entered in LinkB5 as of Sept. 16th, 2022.

* All age-levels are weighted equally and scores are averaged at the **dimension level** to provide a reflection of what is happening in the classrooms.

**Calculating Curriculum Points**

The site curriculum score is calculated using the classroom curriculum information entered each year. For Practice Year 2, this will include the following:

* Sites using an approved curriculum in at least one classroom are awarded 100 points.
* Sites not using an approved curriculum receive 0 points for curriculum.

**Site Practice Rating** - Here is an example to illustrate how a **site level score and rating** are determined during the practice years using CLASS and curriculum information, for a site with three classrooms, one classroom per age-level.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ABC Child Care Center**  **(Example only)** | **Fall CLASS Average Score** | **Spring CLASS Average Score** | **Overall**  **Average Score** | **Approved**  **Curriculum Used?** |
| 1 Infant Classroom | 4.50 | 4.95 | **4.73** | No |
| 1 Toddler Classroom | 3.58 | 3.95 | **3.77** | Yes |
| 1 PreK Classroom | 4.05 | 4.25 | **4.15** | Yes |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Site Total** | ---- | ---- | **4.22** | **Yes** |

**ABC Child Care Center - Overall Practice Year Rating**

**Interactions Points** = 4.22 x 100 = 422 points

**Curriculum Points** = 100 points

**TOTAL Points** = 422 + 100 = 522 points (Meets Practice Year Expectations)

Additional details about the practice rating calculations can be found in **VQB5 Practice Rating User Guide** (*Coming Soon!*) and the [VQB5 Guidelines for Practice Year 2 (Section 6)](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/early-childhood/2021/measurement-improvement-system-guidelines-ECAC-0323.docx).

Questions about VQB5 practice year ratings can be directed to [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov)