| VODE ECCE Logo | VQB5 : VIRGINIA’S UNIFIED MEASUREMENTAND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW |
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## WHY DOES VIRGINIA NEED A UNIFIED MEASUREMENT AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM?

Public early childhood dollars serve our most vulnerable infants, toddlers and preschoolers. We need a system that:

* Empowers every educator with individualized feedback, support and resources to continually improve as professionals;
* Equips every leader to support continual improvement through access to classroom-level information and aligned resources;
* Aligns preparation and professional development resources to address the needs of every leader, educator and child; and
* Offers every family a quality option that meets their needs;

Then our most vulnerable children will thrive, with opportunities for all children to develop the skills need to be ready for school.

## WHAT IS VQB5?

In response to the state unification legislation, a new Unified Measurement and Improvement System, called the Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5), has been developed and approved by the Virginia Board of Education. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) worked with a variety of stakeholders and communities to develop the new VQB5 system that focuses on the quality of all publicly-funded infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms and support families to choose quality programming across different program types.

## WHO WILL BE 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.

Additional participation details can be found in the [VQB5 Participation FAQs](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/updated-ec-quality-req-faq-may-22.docx). Early childhood programs that do not receive any public funds will have the option to participate.

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

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

* Provide useful data for educators and stakeholders;
* Align and strengthen infrastructure to support quality improvement;
* Enable collaboration across program types;
* Deepen family engagement by making program quality understandable and comparable;
* Demonstrate the positive impact of early childhood in order to increase investment.

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## WHEN WILL THE NEW SYSTEM BE IN PLACE?

VDOE is working with a variety of stakeholders to begin to implement and scale VQB5. This includes implementing two practice years as shown in the timeline below. (All programs have an opportunity to participate in at least one practice year.)

| **2021-2022** | * **VQB5 Practice Year 1 (ended June 2022)**   1450+ programs participated through the Preschool Development Grant |
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| **2022-2023** | * **VQB5 Practice Year 2 – Registration August 1st-Sept. 16th, 2022**   Participation available through [Ready Regions](https://vecf.org/ready-regions-opportunities/) (Available to 100% of state) |
| **2023-2024** | * **VQB5 Year 1 begins August 2023**   All publicly funded programs required to participate, including child care subsidy, VPI, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education. Site Quality Profiles from Year 1 will be publicly shared in the fall of 2024 |

**WHAT IS MEASURED IN VQB5?**

VQB5 focuses on two quality measures: Interactions and Curriculum.

* **Interactions**: Teacher-child interactions are measured using the [Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)](https://teachstone.com/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.
* **Curriculum:** As a first step to support curriculum use in all programs, VQB5 recognizes programs that use an [approved curriculum](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/index.shtml) in at least one classroom.

**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 activities and helpful resources for program leaders are available on the [Quality Measurement and Improvement (VQB5) website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/vqb5/index.shtml).

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING IN VQB5?**

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

* Receive feedback on the teacher-child interactions in every infant, toddler and preschool classroom, including family day homes
* Access improvement supports, training and resources to support interactions and curriculum.
* Receive financial incentives for participation for certain eligible teachers through [RecognizeB5](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/).

To participate in VQB5, contact your local [Ready Region](https://vecf.org/ready-regions/).

Other questions or feedback can be send to [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov)