VQB5 Curriculum Options and Access

March 2022

Objectives and Agenda

As a result of this presentation, early childhood providers will:

1. Increase their understanding of the unified VQB5 system, with a focus on systems level curriculum expectations.
2. Learn more about VQB5 curriculum options.

Agenda

- Vision for Early Childhood in Virginia
- VQB5 Overview ("Refresher")
- Curriculum Options and Access
  - Curriculum Use Data
  - VQB5 Options
- Next Steps

Our Shared Vision

Four out of ten Virginia children enter school without the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed. We envision a Virginia where *all* children have the opportunity to enter school ready.

- All families have affordable access to and support to choose the option that meets their unique needs.

- All early childhood programs that take public funds benefit from measurement and supports for improvement, ensuring quality choices are available for all families.

- Programs are rewarded for continual improvement and educators are adequately compensated.

- Overall Virginia's early childhood system is unified, data-driven and resource-effective so families can work, go to school or pursue employment and children have every opportunity to be successful.

A Simplified View

Access + Quality ➡️

More Choices for More Families ➡️

Improved School Readiness Outcomes

Virginia's unified quality measurement and improvement system, VQB5, supports state efforts to ensure ALL children have access to high quality early learning programs that enable them to maximize their potential.

VQB5 Overview

Unified Measurement and Improvement

Virginia's early childhood system must ensure that <u>all</u> children have access to quality teaching and learning experiences that meet their unique needs.

Working together, through VQB5, we will:

UNIFY around shared and equitable expectations for quality.

MEASURE and strengthen teacher-child interactions and curriculum use in all publicly-funded birth-to-five programs.

IMPROVE supports for educators, prioritizing those who need it most.

More information available on the Quality Measurement and Improvement (VQB5) webpage

Who Will Have to Participate in VQB5?

Starting in the fall of 2023, all publicly funded providers will be required to participate in the new unified VQB5 system*. This includes...

- Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) Mixed Delivery program
- 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
- Federal Department of Defense military child care fee assistance

For the definition of publicly funded programs, as well as answers to frequently asked questions please refer to the <u>VQB5 Participation FAQ</u> document.

Programs that do not receive public funds will have the option to participate

What Will be Measured?

Virginia's new Unified Measurement and Improvement System will measure the quality of infant, toddler and preschool teaching and learning based on two nationally-recognized quality indicators.

Interactions	Curriculum
Measure teacher-child interactions and instruction in a developmentally-appropriate way using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)	Measure the use of approved curricula that are aligned with Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards

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*.

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The Interactions and Curriculum Connection

Several aspects of a <u>quality curriculum</u> reinforce and support quality interactions as measured by the CLASS tool. Here are some examples:
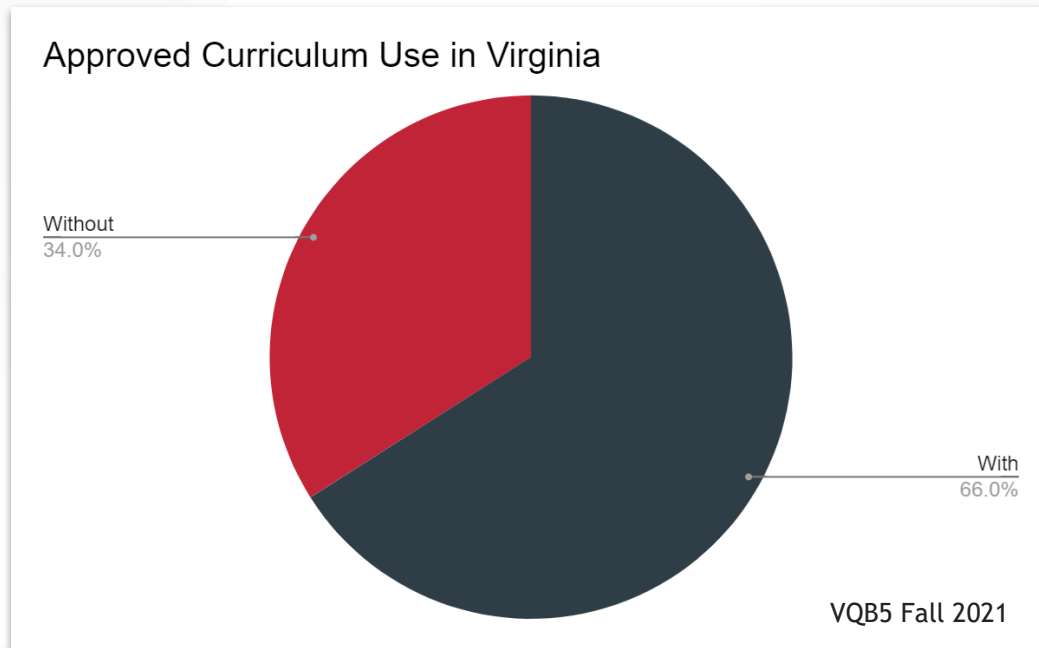
Quality Curriculum Component		Connection to CLASS Dimensions
Opportunities for hands-on exploration and language extension	⇒	Supports Facilitation of Learning and Development and Language Modeling
Guidance on how to individualize instructional activities	⇒	Supports Teacher Sensitivity and Quality of Feedback
Guidance for designing developmentally appropriate schedules, routines and learning environments.	⇒	Supports Regard for Child Perspectives, Productivity and Instructional Learning Formats

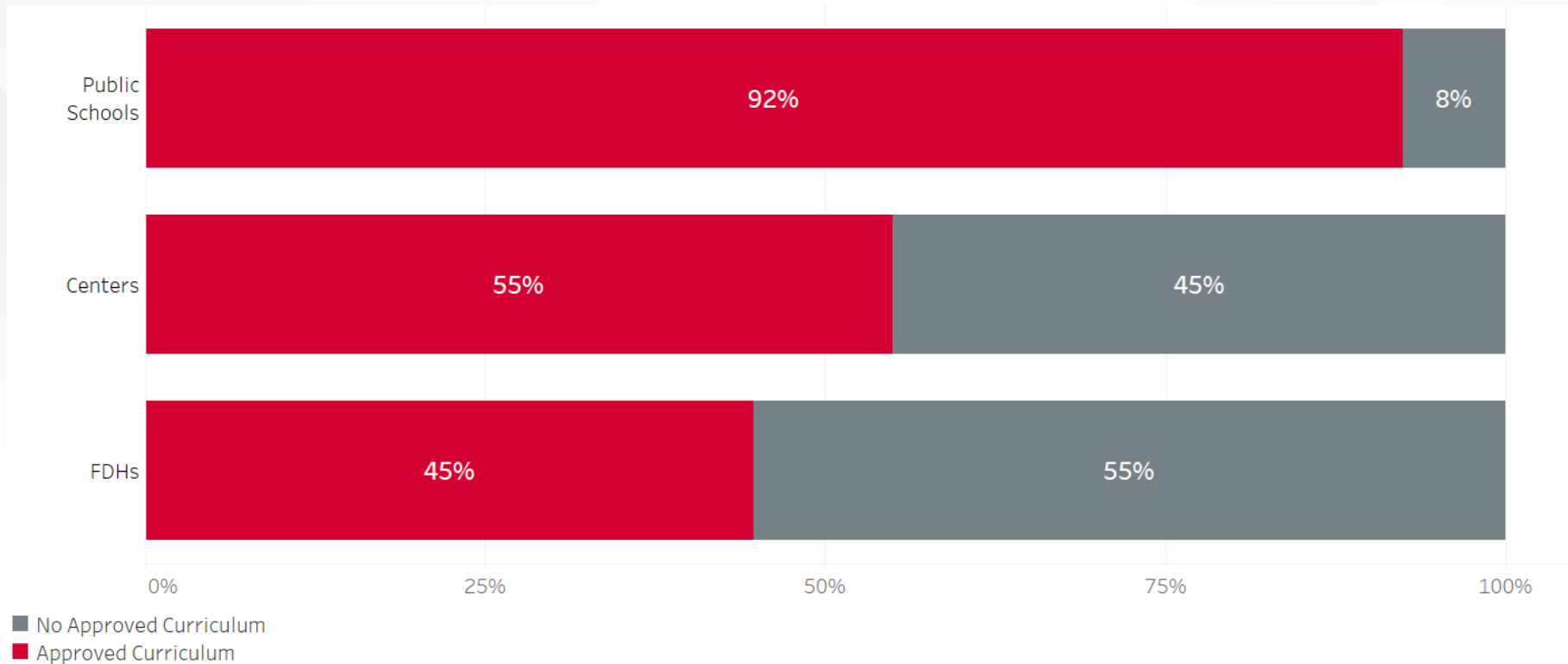# Curriculum Use in VA's Publicly-Funded Classrooms: Fall 2021 Data

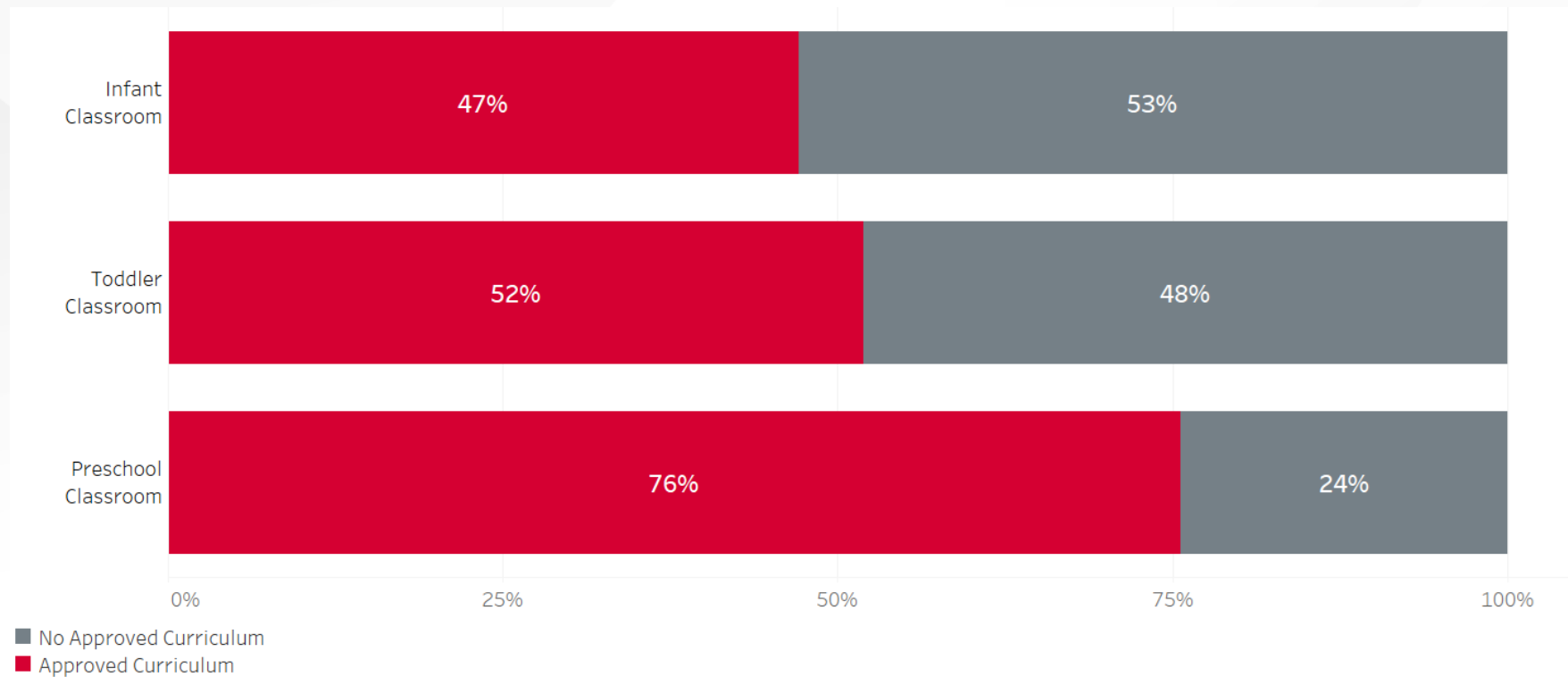# Key Takeaway #1: Most programs have an approved curriculum in place

Approved Curriculum Use in Virginia

Without
34.0%

With
66.0%

VQB5 Fall 2021

Key Takeaway #2: Use of approved curriculum varies by program type

Public Schools: 92% Approved Curriculum, 8% No Approved Curriculum
Centers: 55% Approved Curriculum, 45% No Approved Curriculum
FDHs: 45% Approved Curriculum, 55% No Approved Curriculum

Legend:
- No Approved Curriculum
- Approved Curriculum

Key Takeaway #3: Use of approved curriculum varies by age level

Chart showing percentages of approved and no approved curriculum by classroom type:

Classroom	Approved Curriculum	No Approved Curriculum
Infant Classroom	47%	53%
Toddler Classroom	52%	48%
Preschool Classroom	76%	24%

Legend:
- No Approved Curriculum (gray)
- Approved Curriculum (red)

VQB5 Early Childhood Curriculum Options

Curriculum Options for Publicly-Funded Programs *Without* An Approved Curriculum

VDOE continues to improve program choice and access to curriculum, focusing on the 34% of publicly-funded programs without a curriculum in place. Early childhood curriculum options for VQB5 include:
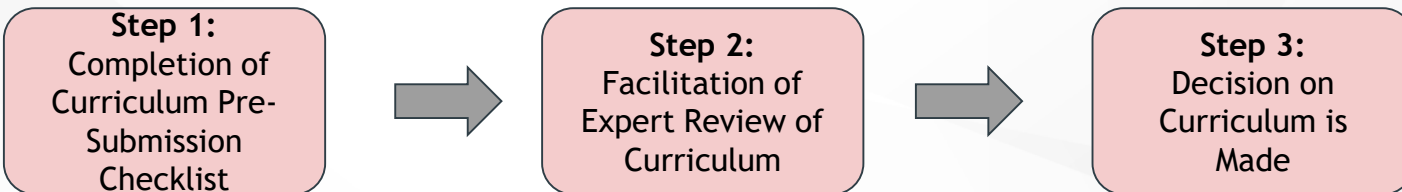
Option 1: Seek **approval** for a curriculum the site already has in place	**Option 2: Choose and use** one of the **30** (and growing) VDOE-approved curriculum options	**Option 3:** Access **StreamIn3** as an open-source option, with low-or-no cost training and resources
Resources: • Overview of Curriculum Review Process • Baseline Criteria for High Quality Birth to Five Curriculum	Resources: • Visit the EC Standards, Curriculum and Instruction webpage for the current approved list.	Resources: • Visit the STREAMin3 webpage (one pagers, FAQ and additional updates coming soon).

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About Option 1: The VDOE Curriculum Review Process

VDOE Curriculum Approval Process

The VDOE will use a multi-level process for reviewing early childhood curricula. For birth to five programs currently operating in Virginia that <u>do not</u> have a VDOE-approved curriculum in use:

- The *VDOE Curriculum Pre-Submission Process* must first be completed to determine eligibility for VDOE curriculum review

- There are <u>3</u> steps to this process

Step 1:
Completion of Curriculum Pre-Submission Checklist

→

Step 2:
Facilitation of Expert Review of Curriculum

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Step 3:
Decision on Curriculum is Made

Programs already using curriculum from the VDOE-approved list do not need to complete the checklist/request a curriculum review.

Step 1: Program completes Curriculum Pre-Submission Checklist

Prior to completing the checklist and requesting an in-depth review by VDOE, programs should:

- Carefully review the National Center for Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL) high-quality indicators for Early Childhood curricula.

- Ensure the VDOE Baseline Criteria for High-Quality Birth to Five Programs are met.

- Allot at least 30 minutes to complete the 8 reflection questions in the checklist (your responses will be saved for later completion if necessary).

- Plan to collaborate with other program leaders who are familiar with your curriculum to complete the checklist.

Programs will be notified of pre-submission checklist results within 2-3 weeks after a response is submitted.

Completion of this Curriculum Pre-Submission checklist <u>does not</u> guarantee a VDOE Curriculum Review. VDOE will make this determination based on your checklist results.

Step 2: Program works with VDOE to facilitate review

Once VDOE reviews the Curriculum Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs from Step 1 and confirms all criteria have been met, a full curriculum review is initiated. This includes:

- Obtaining copies of all resources included with the curriculum.

- Completing an in-depth review of the curriculum and related materials using a rubric similar to the tool developed by the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL).

In 2021-2022, programs that are participating in Practice Year 1 of VQB5 will be prioritized for curriculum reviews, if eligible. Other eligible requests will be considered after reviews are completed for programs participating in Practice Year 1.

The estimated timeline for a curriculum review is ~3 months from notice of eligibility.

Step 3: Decision on Curriculum is Made

After a comprehensive review of a curriculum is completed, VDOE will determine whether a curriculum is "Approved" or "Not Approved".

- This decision will be communicated to the requesting program via a letter.

- If approved, the curriculum will be added to the Approved Curriculum List.

- If the curriculum is <u>not</u> approved, programs will receive additional guidance on how to access and implement an approved curriculum.

- The VDOE will provide support in accessing free or low cost approved curricula options beginning Spring 2022.

The current list of approved curricula is updated monthly and can be accessed from the

.

About Option 2: Choose from the VDOE-approved List

Option 2: "Choose and Use" a VDOE-approved Curriculum Option

For option 2, programs may choose a curriculum option from the VDOE-approved list.

- Visit the Early Childhood Standards, Curriculum and Instruction webpage for the most up-to-date list of approved curricula.
- There currently 8 infant and toddler options, 26 preschool options and 2 mixed-age options...and the list continues to grow!

Option 2: "Choose and Use" a VDOE-approved Curriculum Option

Some considerations when choosing a curriculum option from the VDOE-approved list:

- Visit the Head Start Consumer Report page - many of the approved curricula have detailed information listed there.

- Explore websites for individual curriculum options of interest. Many publishers have FAQ pages and contact information, or an online form to submit questions.

- Reach out to your local Ready Regions leadership team for support.

About Option 3: STREAMin3

STREAMin3, Virginia's No-To-Low Cost Curriculum Option

STREAMin3 is an engaging, interactions-based curriculum for children ages birth through five. STREAMin3:

➢ Aligns with Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards

➢ Supports skills and interactions that align to the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)

➢ Aligns with other key VDOE Early Childhood Education initiatives (VQB5, AEII, VKRP)

- **The STREAMin3 curriculum option will be available to *all* publicly-funded programs beginning in March 2022 at no-to-low cost.**

- **Priority enrollment and onboarding for the two initial groups who will have access to the complete curriculum will be given to classrooms 1) currently participating in VQB5 and not using a VDOE-approved curriculum option and 2) in childcare centers or family day homes.**

The STREAMin3 Curriculum Model

STREAMin3 is grounded in developmental and early education research. It focuses on 6 STREAM and 5 Core Skills to promote children's development and early learning.

6 STREAM Skills

- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- READING
- ENGINEERING
- ART
- 123 MATH

5 Core Skills

- **RELATE** - with peers and adults
- **REGULATE** - their emotions, attention, and behavior
- **THINK** - deeply about the world around them
- **COMMUNICATE** - with others productively
- **MOVE** - their bodies to achieve goals

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Accessing the STREAMin3 Curriculum: Timeline for Roll-Out

- *Beginning in Spring 2022:* **All publicly-funded programs and improvement partners have free, open-access to STREAMin3 curriculum. This includes:**
  - Virtual access to the curriculum (downloadable PDFs), a list of books that the curriculum uses, a library of professional development resources, and large training events (e.g., webinars).

- *Between Spring 2022 and Summer 2024:* **Up to 2,000 classrooms each year (Sp '22 and '23) will be fully supported to implement the StreamIn3 curriculum. Participants in this group (based on availability and need) will receive:**
  - Printed guides and activities, a set of books to use with the curriculum, and professional development support.

March 2022	June 22 - Aug 22	Sept 22 - May 23	June 23 - Aug 23
Registration for **Cohort 1** begins.	**Cohort 1** - Receive intro training and materials.	**Cohort 1** - Full implementation with additional training and coaching. Registration for **Cohort 2** in early 2023	**Cohort 2** - Receive intro training and materials. Full implementation and training to follow.

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Supporting Curriculum Implementation

Program leaders and improvement partners can support effective curriculum implementation in several ways:

- Curriculum and ELDS alignment support
- Providing domain specific PD (e.g., social-emotional development)

Resources of Interest:

- Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards
- ELDS crosswalks (VKRP, Head Start, *curriculum correlations)
- ECE Resource Hub
- WIDA Early Years
- VKRP and PALS
- TTAC Online (resources for educating children with disabilities)

*A baseline criterion for quality curricula is ELDS alignment; curriculum specific correlations are a VDOE requirement.

Next Steps for Programs

Program Expectations for VQB5 Practice Years

The practice years allow programs the chance to practice collecting information, receiving supportive feedback and getting targeted support for interactions and curriculum.

<u>Next Steps for Curriculum:</u>

1. **By 5/31** of each practice year (**2021-2022 and 2022-2023**)**:** Ensure at least <u>one</u> classroom has access to an approved curriculum to receive 100 points towards their VQB5 Practice Year score.
   ○ Programs have two opportunities (fall and spring) to enter curriculum information for VQB5. Refer to VQB5 Curriculum Options document.

2. Begin planning for ongoing PD / implementation support for their selected curriculum option.

Reminder: VQB5 Year 1 begins Fall 2023
- All publicly funded programs **required** to participate.
- Quality Ratings from Year 1 publicly shared in the fall 2024.

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Questions?

VQB5 and CLASS Questions:

Kris Meyers: Associate Director of Quality Measurement and Improvement

Office of Early Learning Questions:

Dr. Tamilah Richardson: Director, Office of Early Childhood Learning

For Curriculum Options and Reviews

- Cassandra Caffee Morelock- Early Childhood Specialist

For ELDS Resources, Including WIDA Early Years

- Rebecca Shaffer- Early Childhood Specialist

The Office of Early Childhood Learning supports standards, curriculum and assessment (VKRP, PALS) implementation. Other early supports include
and family engagement.