



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: January 20, 2023

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Curriculum Review Process Update for the Virginia Literacy Act

The [Virginia Literacy Act \(VLA\)](#), passed by the Virginia Legislature in 2022, seeks to improve K-3 literacy outcomes for all students in the Commonwealth. The VLA requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to recommend K-3 instructional programs in literacy – including core, supplemental, and intervention materials – that are aligned with the eligibility criteria of VLA, namely evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research for approval by the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE). The VDOE has partnered with the [Virginia Literacy Partnerships \(VLP\)](#) in the School of Education and Human Development at University of Virginia to conduct the instructional material reviews.

The Core Instructional Program Review consists of these two phases:

1. Phase I: Initial Review for alignment to features of evidence-based core instructional reading programs, as required by the VLA.
2. Phase II: In-depth Program Review for detailed alignment to evidence-based literacy instructional practices for teaching essential early literacy skills, by grade level, as required by the VLA.

Please review the [recorded webinar](#) for more information.

Phase I of Round 1 has concluded and the [status update](#) shows the current progress for all the core instructional programs submitted in this review cycle.

Note that VDOE and VLP are separately working with Virginia school divisions that have submitted locally-created core instructional programs for review. The VDOE will not publish process updates but will work closely with these school divisions. All school divisions that may be interested in submitting a locally-created core instructional program should contact VLP-VLA@virginia.edu.

Review teams are preparing for Phase II, which will examine each program in greater detail. Updates will be provided as Phase II progresses. VDOE anticipates that the review cycles of supplemental and intervention programming, as required by VLA, will open in 2023. In addition, VDOE anticipates that there will be additional Core Instructional Program Review cycles.

For questions regarding this review status update, please contact vla@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/JC/lma