



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 22, 2023  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **VQB5 - Required Participation for Early Childhood Classrooms**

Starting in August 2023, participation in VQB5 will be required by [law](#) for every early childhood site that takes public funding, including public schools with pre-K classrooms. This includes classrooms that are funded by Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)/IDEA, Head Start, or Title I. This memo provides information on the requirements for school divisions starting in the fall of 2023. Please share these key updates with your early childhood staff and all principals at schools that have early childhood programming.

VQB5 is a quality measurement and improvement system for birth-to-five programs, including programs in schools, child care centers, and family day homes, that seeks to improve quality, support families and ensure all Virginia children start kindergarten ready.

**VQB5 for Public Schools in the 2023-2024 School Year – Three Required Activities**

As required by the recently approved [2023-2024 VQB5 Guidelines](#), all public schools with early childhood classrooms must complete the following three VQB5 activities.

1. Schools must **register between August 15-October 1** in LinkB5, the VQB5 data portal.
2. Every eligible classroom must complete two local classroom observations, **one in the fall and one in the spring**, using the CLASS measure.
3. All participating sites must participate in external CLASS observations for each age-level served, between **August 15, 2023 and May 31, 2024**.

Schools with publicly-funded early childhood classrooms that do **not** complete the participation requirements will be out of compliance with the law and may have public funding terminated.

### **Role of Ready Regions – Ensuring All School Divisions are Connected**

**School divisions should ensure key staff have established relationships with their Ready Region.**

[Ready Regions](#) are funded by the VDOE to support the coordination of VQB5 across all communities in the Commonwealth. Ready Regions will support your school leaders and teachers with registration, including providing instructions on how to complete registration in LinkB5. Ready Regions are also able to provide school leaders and teachers with free [CLASS](#) training this summer. Ready Regions contact information can be found [here](#).

### **For More Information**

1. View the VQB5 2023-2024 Participation 1-pager ([English/Spanish](#)) and FAQs ([English/Spanish](#))
2. Visit the [VDOE Quality Measurement and Improvement \(VQB5\) website](#)
3. Sign up for [Readiness Connections Newsletters](#) to stay up-to-date.

Questions regarding VQB5 can be directed to Kris Meyers, Associate Director of Quality Measurement and Improvement, by email at [Kris.Meyers@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Kris.Meyers@doe.virginia.gov).

LC/KM