



# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## VQB5 Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions

The following talking points are intended to address frequently asked questions and concerns regarding the Curriculum component of VQB5. More information is available in the [VQB5 Guidelines](#).

### Curriculum Reminders

- **Use of an approved curriculum in VQB5 is optional. There is no VQB5 curriculum requirement.**
  - Programs can participate and meet expectations without having an approved curriculum.
  - Programs using an approved curriculum in at least one classroom will **receive 100 points** towards their overall quality score, with the goal of strengthening the implementation of curricular materials and content in future years.
- **All birth to five early childhood educators benefit from access to and support to use quality curriculum to promote children's learning and development.**
  - A curriculum component was added to VQB5 because curriculum is a nationally recognized quality indicator. Programs that choose to use an approved curriculum **in at least one classroom** will receive 100 points.
- **VDOE-approved curricula are comprehensive and aligned to the VA-ELDS and [baseline criteria for quality early childhood curriculum](#).**
  - Curriculum that is aligned to [Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards: Birth-Five Learning Guidelines](#) ensures children have the opportunity to access the content and skills that are outlined in the standards.
  - A high-quality, comprehensive curriculum will include resources and provide guidance on how to support individualized instruction, including for children with disabilities and English/multilingual learners.
- **Programs who opt to use curriculum have many choices when it comes to curriculum.**
  - Programs can choose and use one of the 60+ (and growing) VDOE-approved curriculum options, including open-source options with low-to-no cost training and resources ([STREAMin<sup>3</sup>](#), [Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence](#), and [Early Learning Matters](#)).
  - Programs can request to have their curriculum of choice reviewed for possible approval. The steps to approval are outlined in VDOE's [Overview of the Curriculum Process for VQB5](#), available on the [Early Childhood Curriculum](#) webpage.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will my center be out of compliance or lose funding if it does not have an approved curriculum?**
  - No. Use of an approved curriculum in VQB5 is optional. There is no VQB5 curriculum requirement.
  - Programs using an approved curriculum in at least one classroom will receive 100 points towards their overall quality score, with the goal of strengthening the implementation of curricular materials and content in future years.
- **What is the deadline to enter an approved curriculum on LinkB5 in order to receive 100 points toward our overall score?**
  - Programs can report curriculum usage at the classroom level in LinkB5 each year once registration opens. The deadline to enter information into LinkB5 is May 31 of each year.
- **What does “curriculum pending” mean?**
  - When a provider requests a review of a curriculum, the publisher is then contacted to initiate the review process, and the curriculum is then added to the pending list. The curriculum review takes place as soon as the publisher sends materials in for review, and are typically completed within three-four weeks. From start to finish, the entire review process takes three months on average.
- **Is there a deadline for a “pending” curriculum to submit materials for review?**
  - No. Publishers may submit materials for a comprehensive curriculum review at any time. That being said, any curriculum that is pending as of March 15<sup>th</sup> will likely not be approved before May 31<sup>st</sup> for the current VQB5 year.
- **Are there any curriculum options for Family Day Homes?**
  - Family Day Homes may choose and use any approved curriculum that meets the needs of their program. We continually review options that include mixed age curricula.
- **How can I decide which curriculum will work best for my program?**
  - Providers can find more information by visiting curriculum vendor websites and contacting the company directly to ask questions.
  - Providers can view VDOE’s [Early Childhood Curriculum Vendor "Get to Know You" Series Library](#) to learn more about curriculum options.
- **I already use a curriculum, but it does not appear on the approved list. How do I get it added to the approved list?**
  - If you are interested in adding your curriculum to VDOE’s approved list, you may submit a request using the [Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#).
- **I developed my own curriculum, can I continue using it?**
  - If you are interested in adding your independently developed (or, “homegrown”) curriculum to VDOE’s approved list, you may submit a request using the [Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#).
- **Can faith-based curriculum options be reviewed for approval?**

- Yes, all comprehensive early childhood curricula, including faith-based, may be reviewed. If your faith-based curriculum does not appear on the currently approved or pending lists, you may submit a request for review.
- **Does VDOE offer financial support to providers to purchase curriculum?**
  - The VDOE has partnered with [STREAMin3](#) to provide a high-quality, comprehensive, low-to-no-cost birth to five curriculum option to Virginia's early learning programs.
  - Other open-source options with low-to-no cost training and resources included on VDOE's approved curriculum list are [Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence](#) and [Early Learning Matters](#).
  - [Child Care Financing Program](#) - The Virginia Child Care Financing Program offers low cost loans to eligible child care programs through the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority (VSBFA). This financing can be used to enhance the Early Care and Education learning environment, improve quality, and support business components of a child care program.

## Curriculum Resources

- **General**
  - [VQB5 Guidelines](#)
  - [VDOE Early Childhood Curriculum Webpage](#)
  - [Approved Curriculum List](#)
  - [Curriculum Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#)
  - [Baseline Criteria for High-Quality Birth to Five Curriculum](#)
  - [Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards \(ELDS\), Birth-Five Learning Guidelines \(Spanish Version\)](#)
  - [Sign up](#) to receive weekly Readiness Connections Updates and quarterly Ready B5 Recap Newsletters from VDOE on early childhood news.
- **Connection between CLASS and Curriculum**
  - [CLASS Research Summary](#)
  - [Driving Teaching Quality with CLASS](#)
  - [AEII PD Toolkit](#)
  - CLASS and Curriculum Connections [Infant/Toddler](#) and [PreK](#)
- **VQB5**
  - [VDOE Quality Measurement and Improvement \(VQB5\) Webpage](#)
  - [VQB5 Participation 1 Pager](#)
  - [VQB5 Participation FAQ](#)

Contact [Cassandra.CaffeeMorelock@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Cassandra.CaffeeMorelock@doe.virginia.gov) if you have questions about curriculum.