

VIRGINIA'S EARLY LEARNING SUPPORTS

Office of Early Childhood Learning
Pre-Recorded Webinar, Winter 2023



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

In this session, we discuss:

- Available early learning standards aligned resources and supports designed to support programs to increase school readiness outcomes for all Virginia children.

Agenda

- Virginia's School Readiness Landscape
- Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and Resources
- Early Childhood Curriculum



VIRGINIA'S SCHOOL READINESS LANDSCAPE



OUR SHARED VISION

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.



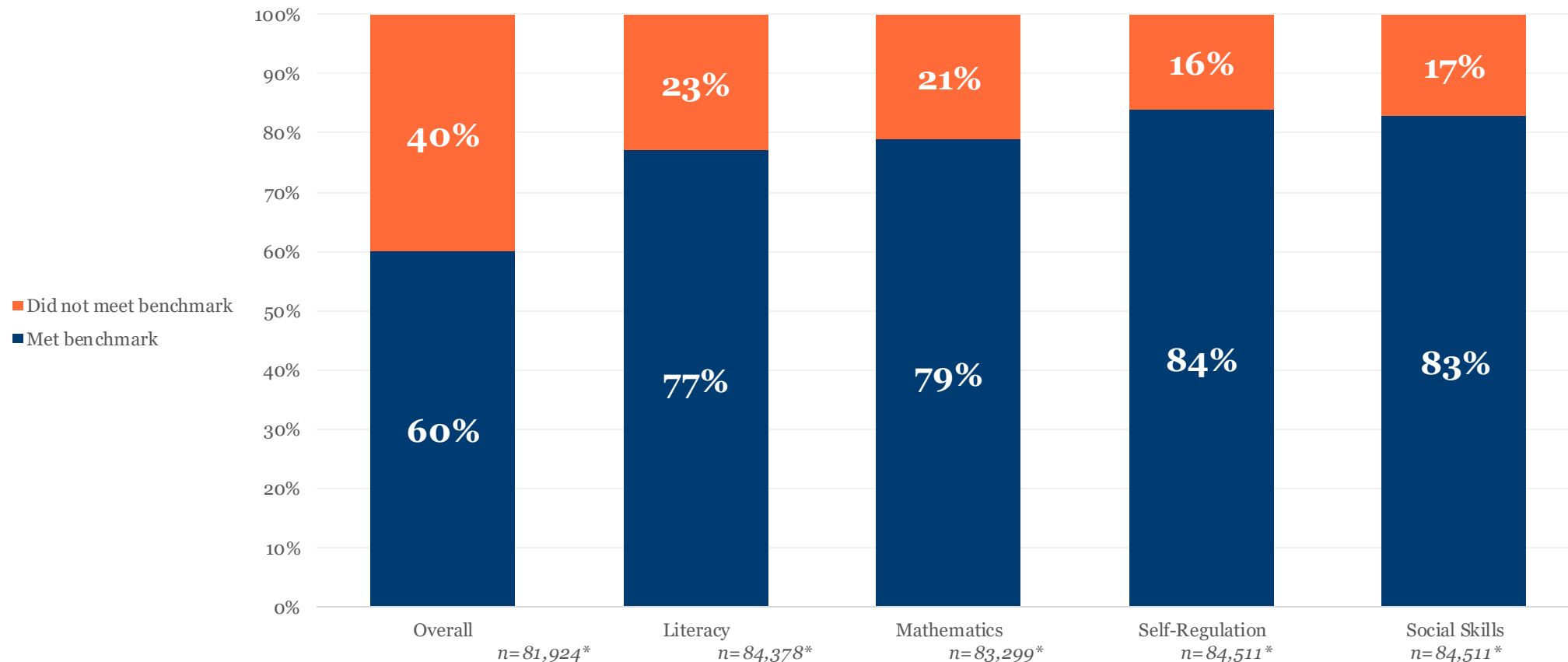
Four out of ten Virginia children enter school without the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed. (VKRP fall 2022)



SCHOOL READINESS IN VIRGINIA



40% of Virginia's kindergarteners began the 2022-2023 school year still needing to build skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and/or Social Skills.*



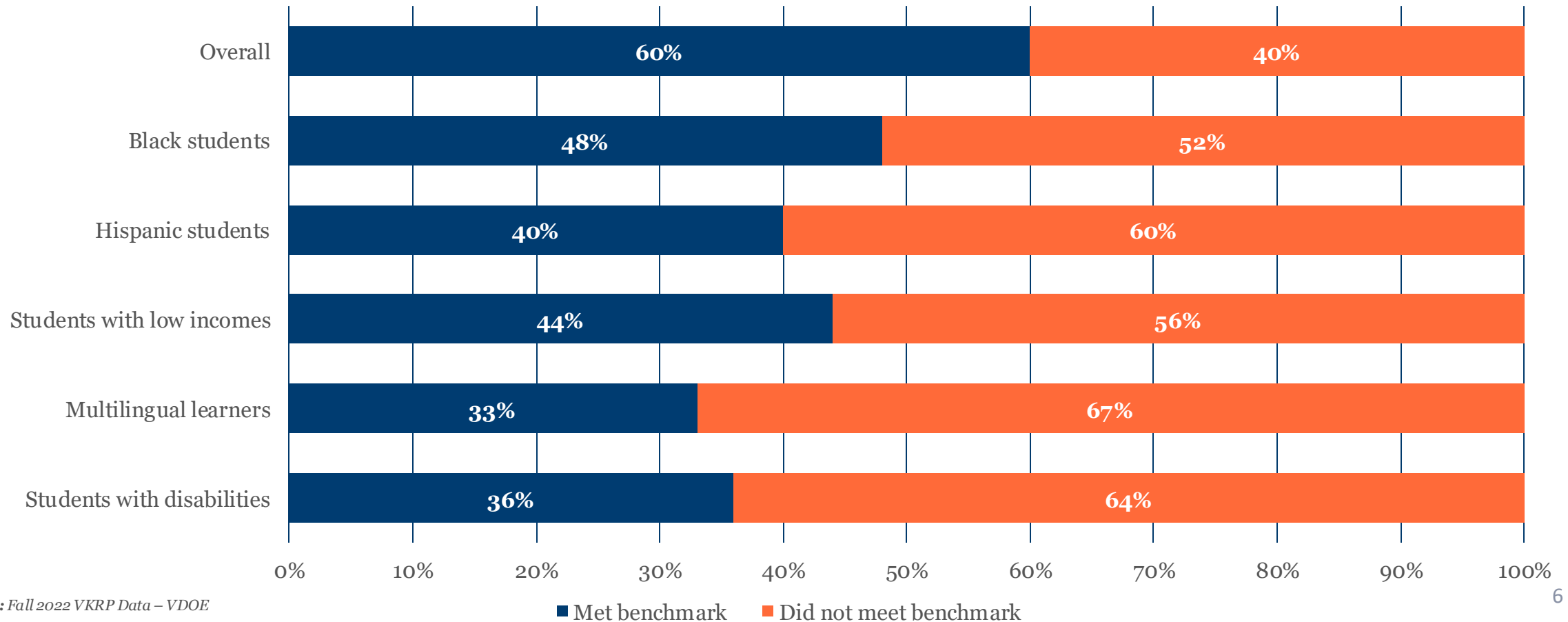
Source: Fall 2022 VKRP Data – VDOE

* Students with complete data on each individual measure were included to obtain these estimates.



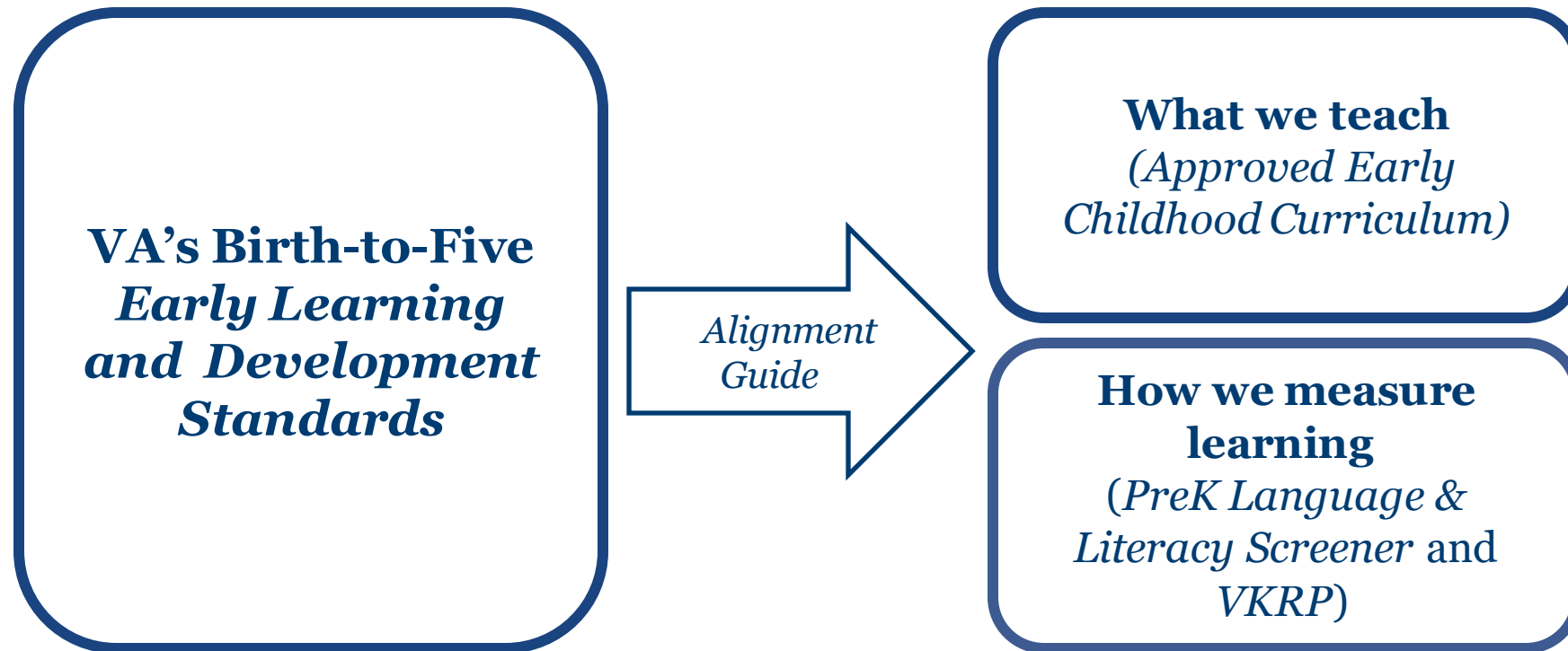
PERSISTENT DISPARITIES IN READINESS

Students who have historically faced barriers are less likely to enter kindergarten with the skills needed to succeed.



CORE CLASSROOM LEARNING SUPPORTS

VDOE supports various inputs for improving care and instruction in all publicly funded infant, toddler, and pre-K programs. These tools and resources are essential to build and sustain a well-prepared ECCE workforce.



Effective implementation of these and other essential school readiness supports helps ensure all children have the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready to thrive.



FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS AND READINESS

- Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment tools are most effective when utilized in partnership with families and caregivers.
- Meaningful family engagement creates partnerships that support children's holistic learning and development.
- Connecting families to resources that support school readiness at home honors families as their child's first and forever teacher.



Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)



VIRGINIA'S EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) are the state's unified, comprehensive set of learning guidelines for children ages birth to five.

- The ELDS can be found on the VDOE **Early Childhood Standards and Instructional Supports webpage** in English and Spanish.
- The ELDS are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and the Virginia Kindergarten Standards of Learning.



ELDS AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Approaches to Play and Learning

Social and Emotional Development

Communication, Language, and Literacy Development

Health and Physical Development

Cognitive Development

- Science
- Social Sciences: People, Community, and Culture
- Mathematics
- Fine Arts



HOW TO USE THE EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (ELDS)

The ELDS can be used by individual providers and early childhood programs to:

- Understand how children build skills and understanding in different areas of development from birth to age five;
- Discern whether a particular child is learning and growing according to general expectations;
- Identify topics for training to help all providers continually grow and improve as early educators.

The ELDS are NOT intended to be used as:

- A developmental checklist; not all children will demonstrate skills in the same time frame or in the same way.
- An assessment of a child's learning and development.
- A curriculum.



VIRGINIA'S ELDS ALIGNED RESOURCES



EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS & INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

The Early Learning and Development Standards and aligned resources can be found on the [VDOE Early Childhood Standards and Instructional Supports webpage](#), including:

- ECE Micro-credential Registration Information
- The ECE Resource Hub
- Links to WIDA Resources
- Information about Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

These resources are designed to support programs to:

- Use quality instructional tools and engage in aligned professional development,
- Individualize care and instruction to meet the needs of all learners, and
- Promote holistic and intentional learning and development at each age and stage.

The screenshot shows the Virginia Department of Education website. The header includes the VDOE logo, navigation links (A-Z Index, SSWS Login, Contact Us, Translate), social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube), and a search bar. The main navigation menu has five categories: Parents & Students, Teaching, Learning & Assessment, Programs & Services, State Board, Data & Funding, and About VDOE. The left sidebar menu lists: TEACHING IN VIRGINIA, PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT, TEACHERDIRECT, ALL IN VA, EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (expanded), For Families (ChildCareVA.com, Head Start), Preschool, and Children with Disabilities. The 'Early Childhood Standards & Instructional Supports' link is highlighted in yellow. The main content area shows the page title 'Early Childhood Standards & Instructional Supports', a breadcrumb trail 'Teaching, Learning & Assessment > Early Childhood Care & Education >', and the sub-header 'Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), Birth-Five Learning Guidelines'. The text below explains that Virginia has a unified set of standards for young children and that a core component of a high-quality early education experience is providing opportunities for children to engage deeply within developmental/early learning domains to build school readiness skills. It also states that the standards are intended to help early childhood educators understand child development and implement effective classroom activities.



THE ELDS MICRO-CREDENTIAL



VDOE has partnered with Radford University faculty from the Vinod Chachra Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency (IMPACT) Lab to develop an Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) Introductory Micro-Credential.

Topics Covered in the Micro-Credential:

- Factors that shape and promote child development and learning.
- ELDS as a tool to help caregivers and educators prepare children to enter Kindergarten ready to thrive.
- How learning and development standards relate to school readiness strategies.
- Virginia's open-source Early Childhood Education (ECE) resources that promote school readiness.



WHO IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

Any staff member who engages with young children as a part of their daily work is eligible to participate in the ELDS Micro-credential:

- Teachers
- Instructional Assistants and Paraprofessionals
- Directors, Education Coordinator, and Coaches
- Family Service Workers and other program support Staff

Celebrates developmentally appropriate practice in all settings:

- Childcare centers
- Schools
- Home-based settings



ESSENTIAL DETAILS & LOGISTICS

The ELDS Micro-Credential has the following characteristics:

- **Competency-based, research-based, online** professional learning to support best practices for educators working in birth to five settings.
- Available at **no-cost**, 5-hours of learning , non-credit bearing, and must be completed by June 2024.
- Course content, quizzes, surveys, and note-taking forms available in **English and Spanish**

Enrollment Logistics

- Each staff member must be **registered with a unique email address**; groups cannot be registered on the same account.
- After completing the **registration form**, eligible participants will receive a welcome email from Radford University with their login information and access to the course within 7 days.
- Learners receive **support and reminder emails** from Radford as they complete the course.



THE ECE RESOURCE HUB

The ECE Resource Hub provides educators with resources to support quality classroom experiences:

- The Hub now includes support for all foundational skills for all children from birth to five, including motor skills, language and literacy, early math, problem-solving, and more!
- For each skill and age group, educators will find information about how each skill develops, videos of educators supporting the skills, book recommendations and reading guides, as well as fun activities to try out in the classroom.
- The Hub's strategy library has been reorganized so that it is easier to find professional development resources for educators to use in group professional development sessions, coaching, or personal reflections and planning.

Register for the ECE Resource Hub Monthly Newsletter to learn more!



ECEresourcehub.org



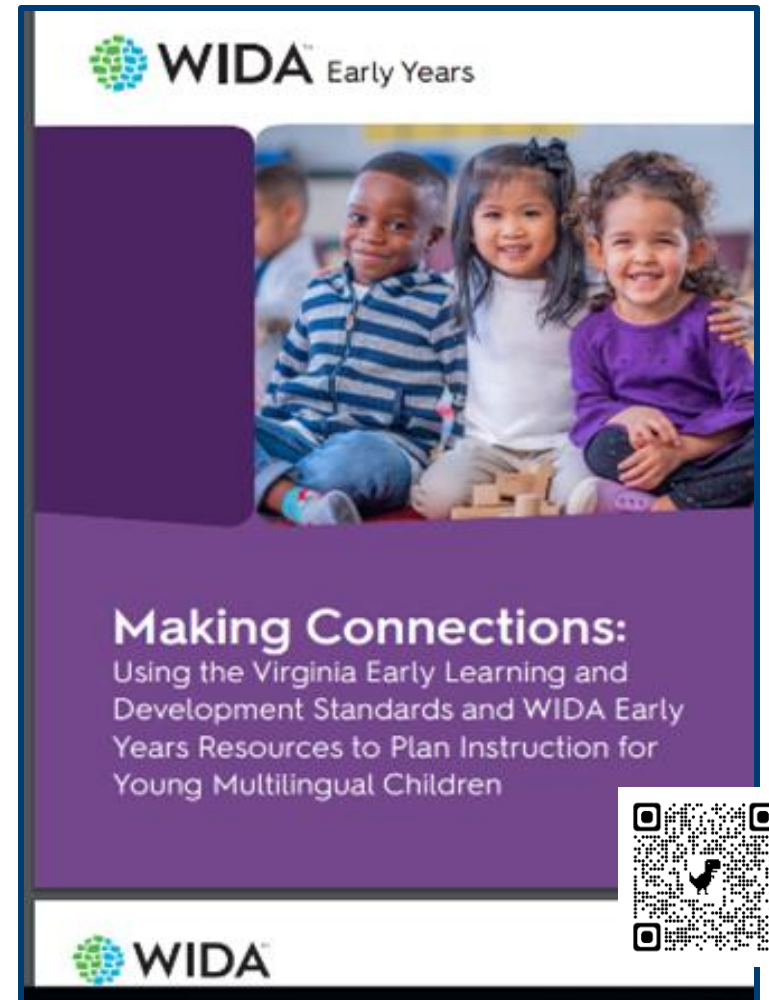
SUPPORTING MULTILINGUAL CHILDREN IN ECE SETTINGS: WIDA

Virginia educators now have free access the WIDA *Making Connections* and *ABC's of Family Engagement* documents.

The *Making Connections* document is:

- Aligned to VA's ELDS.
- Offers suggestions, tools and sample plans for supporting learning for multilingual children.

WIDA resources feature language development strategies that benefit all children, regardless of language backgrounds, and family engagement strategies and Visit the resource library.



EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION PILOT



ECMHC PILOT PARTNERS



Virginia Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Helping early childhood teachers and families promote healthy social-emotional development of children from birth to age five in Virginia.



SCHOOL of EDUCATION
and HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
CASTL



ECMHC SUPPORTS EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES

- Promote early childhood social-emotional wellness
- Build strong social-emotional skills
- Improve the quality of teacher-child interactions
- Prevent suspension and expulsion from early childhood programs



KEY FEATURES OF ECMHC

- **Tiered consultation model: child- and classroom- focused**
 - **New in January 2024: Program-Level Consultation**
- **Collaborative, one-on-one consultation with teachers:** observations and sessions with joint *problem-solving*, *planning* social-emotional strategies, and *reflection and feedback*
- **In-person, virtual, and hybrid formats**
- **Flexible timing** for teacher sessions (weekly or bi-weekly) and **duration of services:** brief (8 weeks), typical (12 weeks) or extended tracks (16 weeks)
- **Family sessions** available for child-focused consultation (~1-3 sessions); one-on-one sessions and joint teacher-family sessions when possible



VIRGINIA ECMHC PILOT ELIGIBILITY

- **Early childhood education programs serving children ages birth to five** (infant, toddler, and/or preschool) that are receiving any public funds are eligible to participate in the Virginia ECMHC program.
- **Referrals can be made by teachers, leaders, or families** for consultation services; child care centers and family day homes are prioritized.



LEARN MORE AND MAKE A REFERRAL



Visit our website!
<https://va-ecmhc.org/>

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(birth-3 years)
757-208-0288
lynettew@cdr.org

UVA-CASTL
(3-5 years)
434-243-8285
qfw4aj@virginia.edu



ECMHC promotional video (~4 minutes)



Curriculum in VQB5



CURRICULUM IN VQB5

Use of an approved curriculum in VQB5 is optional. There is no VQB5 curriculum requirement.

1. All birth to five early childhood educators benefit from access to and support to use quality curriculum to promote children's learning and development.
2. VDOE-approved curricula are comprehensive, integrated and aligned to the VA-ELDS among other baseline criteria for quality early childhood curriculum.
3. Several aspects of a quality curriculum reinforce and support quality interactions. (Connecting CLASS and Curriculum I/T and Pre-K)
4. Programs who **opt** to use curriculum have many **choices** when it comes to curriculum. The early childhood vetted and approved curriculum list is updated monthly.
5. For more information about Curriculum in VQB5, please refer to the [VQB5 Curriculum FAQ](#) document.



CURRICULUM ACCESS & CHOICE

Virginia is committed to reducing access disparities for all publicly funded birth to five programs.

- Not all programs use a comprehensive, integrated early childhood curriculum.
- Leveraging VQB5 curriculum use data, Virginia can ensure all providers have increased access to a high quality curriculum of their choice.
- For more information about curriculum in VQB5, please view the [pre-recorded Fall Curriculum Webinar \(20:16 mins\)](#) from October 2023.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM WEBPAGE

All Early Childhood Curriculum information and resources are available on the Early Childhood Curriculum webpage to give providers and stakeholders a central place to reference information related to curriculum access and choice while participating in VQB5.

The screenshot shows the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'A-Z Index', 'SSWS Login', 'Contact Us', and 'Translate', along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header is a main navigation menu with five categories: 'Parents & Students', 'Teaching, Learning & Assessment', 'Programs & Services', 'Data, Policy & Funding', and 'About VDOE'. The 'Teaching, Learning & Assessment' category is selected, and a sidebar menu on the left lists various sub-topics, with 'Early Childhood Curriculum' highlighted in yellow. The main content area displays the title 'Early Childhood Curriculum' and a sub-header 'Teaching, Learning & Assessment > Early Childhood Care & Education >'. The text explains that VDOE believes quality teaching and learning is supported by promoting curriculum use in all settings. It also mentions that a high-quality curriculum defines specific, sequenced learning goals to meet all children's individual needs. A section titled 'Curriculum in VQB5' explains that VQB5 measures the quality of infant, toddler, and preschool teaching and learning based on two nationally recognized quality indicators: Interactions and Curriculum. The text concludes by stating that research shows that stimulating and supportive interactions between teachers and children, and effective use of quality curriculum promotes children's holistic learning and development, resulting in improved school readiness. Curriculum is a key ingredient to helping teachers improve their interactions, providing ways to create nurturing and responsive practices and environments that foster trust and emotional security.



CONTACT US!

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