

## VQB5 Classroom Lists for 2024-2025 - Guidance for Site Leaders

To prepare all children for kindergarten, and in response to [state law](#), Virginia developed VQB5 to measure and help improve the quality of all publicly-funded birth-to-five classroom experiences and support families to choose quality programming across all types of programs. VQB5 measures quality at the classroom level for 10,000+ classrooms, including child care, family day home, Head Start, and schools.

To understand how children's experiences support their growth and learning towards school readiness, Virginia, with parental permission, needs to know which children are in each classroom. With this information, Virginia can show how these experiences prepare all children for kindergarten and ultimately better support them to be successful in school and beyond.

This document provides an overview of the Classroom List expectations for 2024-2025.

### **What are VQB5 classroom lists?**

- Classroom lists include all children who are enrolled in birth-to-five classrooms in VQB5.
- With parental awareness, classroom lists are completed each year in the LinkB5 data portal to understand which children are in which classroom at a point-in-time on an annual basis.
- Any parent who does not receive public funds does not have to provide permission if they do not want to. Families who do not receive public funds have the **option** to support classroom list completion by agreeing to share information about their child.

### **Why are classroom lists included in VQB5?**

- State law requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to measure child outcomes as part of VQB5.
- Classroom lists connect the experiences that all children are having in Virginia's early childhood classrooms with specific outcomes like kindergarten readiness for children who later attend public schools.
- Please note: there are no stakes or consequences attached to classroom list information. The information may only be used in broad, deidentified, and legal ways to increase understanding of how Virginia classroom experiences impact Virginia children.

### **What is the requirement for VQB5 sites?**

- All VQB5 sites are required to complete classroom lists in LinkB5 as part of the overall participation requirements.
- This means that sites should ensure that all families are aware of VQB5 and its purpose.
  - For publicly-funded children, this also means entering available information into classroom lists.
  - For privately-funded children, this also means providing each family the opportunity to consent to sharing information via an opt-in or opt-out process.
- Important: Sites are not required to ensure all private-pay families consent as a condition of VQB5 or receiving public funds. They only have to ensure families are aware and have the opportunity to share information.

### **How will families be informed about VQB5?**

- VDOE has developed [VQB5 for Families](#).
- VDOE will partner with program leaders to help them inform families, understand the benefits, and learn their preferences around sharing information about their children.
- There will be several ways to notify and engage families on classroom lists. Each site will be able to choose the approach that best fits the needs of their families.
- Additional information and resources will be available in Summer 2024.

### When are classroom lists required to be completed?

- In 2024-2025, VQB5 participating sites will be required to complete classroom lists by December 22. Sites only need to complete classroom lists once each year, to capture annual 'point in time' enrollment information.
- Sites do not need to update classroom lists if enrollment changes later in the year.

### How will classroom lists benefit families?

- Sharing information about which children are in which classrooms helps Virginia improve early childhood experiences for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- Classrooms lists can help bring more resources to programs; sharing information helps demonstrate the positive impact of early childhood experiences on Virginia's children.
- Families can trust that the data system used to collect and hold children's information is safe, secure, and has the same robust infrastructure that is used for Virginia's public schools.

### How will classroom lists benefit private programs?

- Classroom lists help Virginia tell the story of all children who benefit from the different early childhood programs, whether in child care, family day homes, or Head Start. Schools already have this information and can show how they benefit children.
- By engaging families, private programs can help show the impact of their programming on all children (not just a subset of children).

### What type of child level information will be entered for classroom lists?

- To enable the VDOE to measure impact as required by law, the following is needed:
  - Children's first and last names
  - Children's date of birth
  - Children's gender

### How will the privacy of child-level information be protected?

- The VDOE is subject to federal and state laws that protect how child information is used.
- The VDOE is legally obligated to keep child information private and secure. LinkB5, the data system used to collect and hold children's information, is safe, secure, and has the same robust infrastructure that is used for all public elementary school students in Virginia.
- LinkB5 is subject to oversight by the VDOE and the state technology agency, is consistently audited for security, and is built to modern security specifications (e.g., encryption).
- VDOE is legally prohibited from sharing information that would identify any child or any small group of children or that is not being used for a legally-allowable purpose.

### Will classroom lists put a private provider out of compliance with licensing requirements?

- No. Classroom lists are allowable under licensing requirements. Licensing regulations must comply with state law and classroom lists are in response to Virginia Law §22.1-289.05.
- In addition, Virginia law § 22.1-289.018. indicates that records and information are confidential but "the Superintendent, the Board [of Education], and their agents or designees shall have access to such records, information, and statistical registries, and that such records, information, and statistical registries may be disclosed to any person having a legitimate interest in accordance with state and federal law and regulation."

**For more information:** Visit the [VQB5 website](#), or send questions to [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov).