

CTE Spring 2026 Webinar Series: VQB5 Overview

March 25, 2026



CTE Spring 2026 Webinar Series

In Spring 2026, VATFACS, in collaboration with the VDOE's Office of Early Childhood Quality, is offering a brief webinar series to support all CTE course leaders in learning more about the VDOE's Early Childhood Care and Education work to integrate, align, and support Early Childhood, Education, and Services courses.

- This webinar series will be held from March - May, as 30-minute overviews on the following topics:
 - **Wednesday, March 25, 3:30 – 4:00 pm**
 - Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5) Overview
 - **Wednesday, April 22, 3:30 – 4:00 pm**
 - Licensing/Health & Safety
 - **Wednesday, May 20, 3:30 – 4:00 pm**
 - Early Learning/Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS)/Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)



Objectives and Agenda

Objectives - As a result of this presentation, CTE ECE teachers will:

1. Increase understanding about the purpose and goals of VQB5.
2. Receive information about participation in VQB5 and coordination of the VQB5 system.
3. Learn about key components of the VQB5 system and how it connects to CTE ECE Coursework.
4. Have the opportunity to reflect and ask questions about VQB5.

Agenda

- Shared Vision and Purpose of VQB5
- Participation and Coordination of VQB5
- Measurements of VQB5: Interactions and Curriculum
- VQB5 Quality Ratings
- Wrap-Up and Questions/Discussion

Our Shared Vision

We envision a Virginia where *all* children have the opportunity to enter school ready.



Families have a variety of affordable, high-quality early learning options.



Programs are measured, supported to improve, and rewarded for continuous improvement.



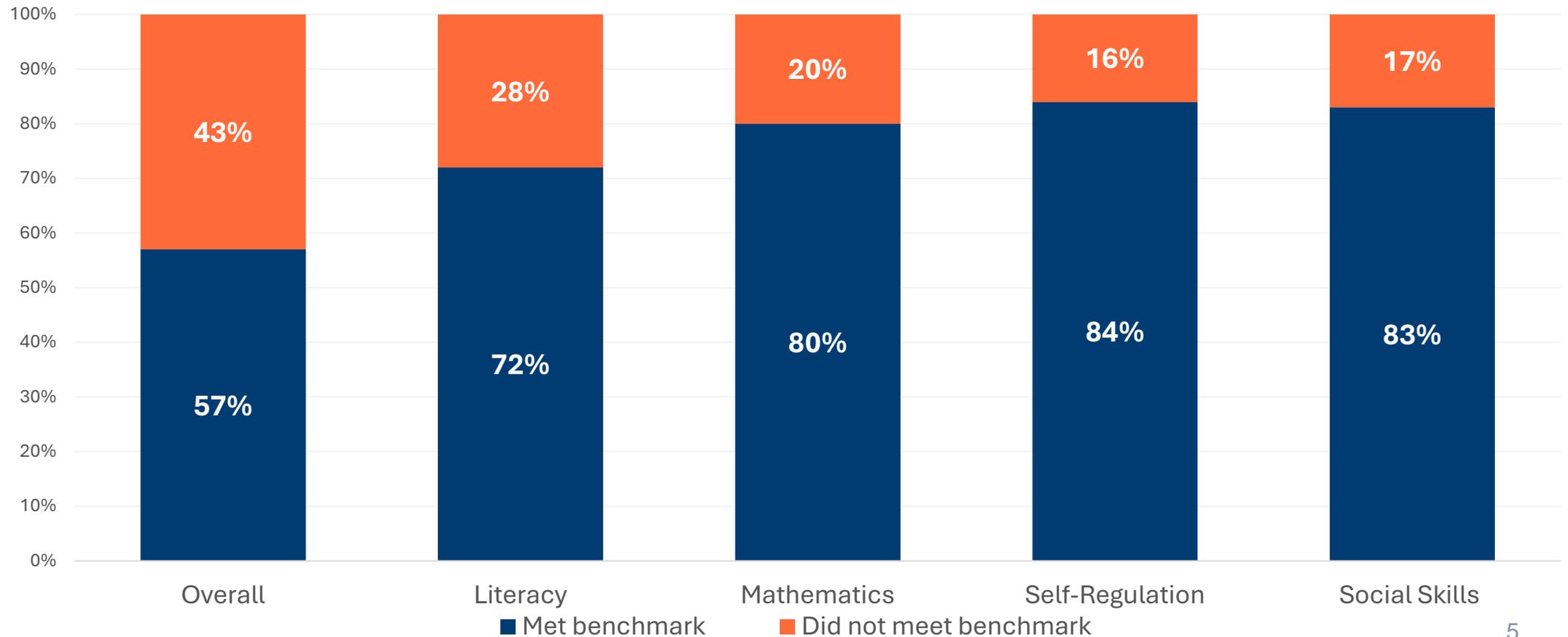
Parents can work or go to school and meet their family's needs.

School Readiness in Virginia



43%

of Virginia's kindergarteners began 2025-2026 needing to build skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and/or Social Skills.



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

VQB5: Measuring Quality

VQB5 measures the quality of infant, toddler, and preschool teaching and learning based on two nationally-recognized quality indicators.

Interactions	Curriculum
Measure teacher-child interactions and instruction in a developmentally-appropriate way using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)	Measure the use of VDOE-approved early childhood curricula that are aligned with Virginia’s Early Learning and Development Standards
Research shows that stimulating and supportive interactions between teachers and children and effective use of quality curricula promote children’s holistic learning and development, <i>resulting in improved school readiness.</i>	



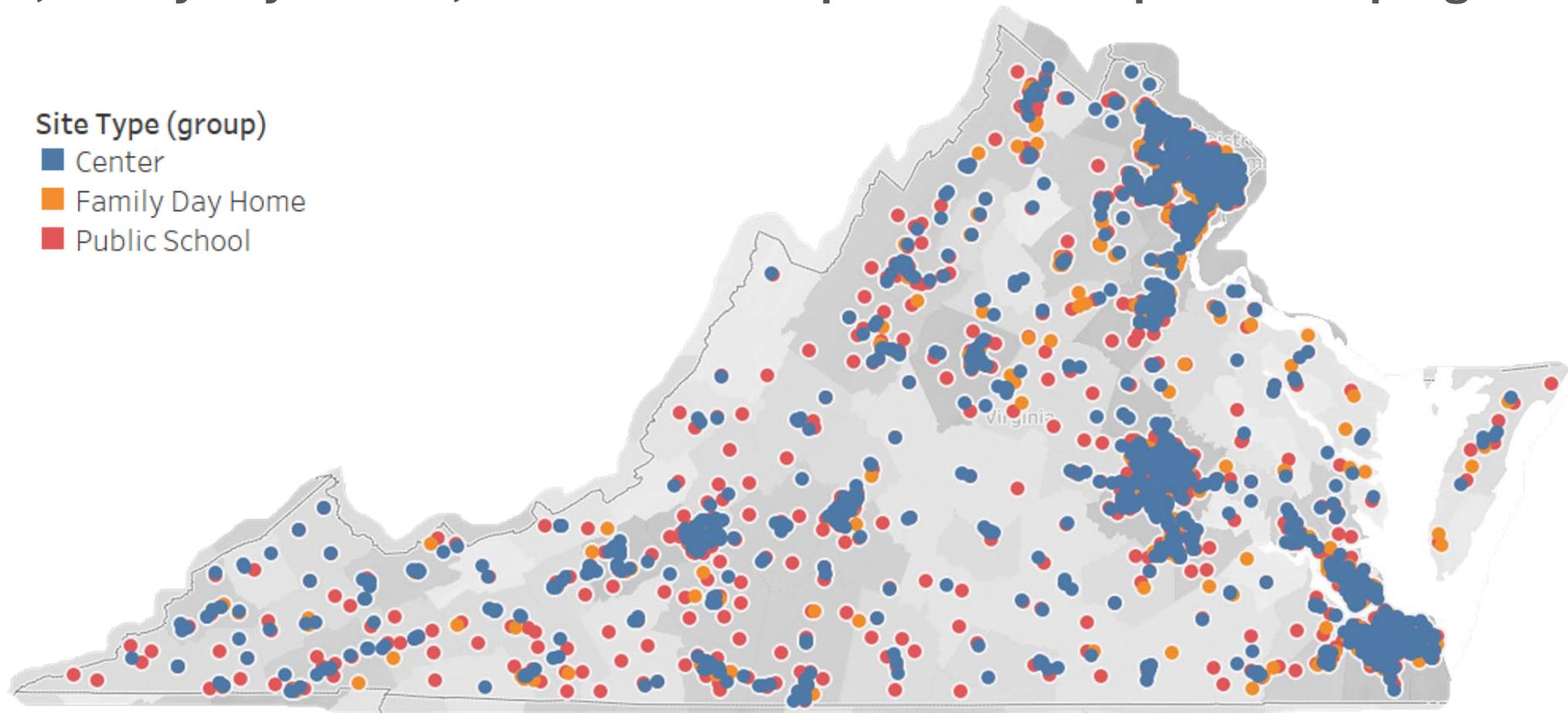
VIRGINIA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM MUST ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN HAVE QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT MEET THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS.

To ensure all children are ready for Kindergarten, Virginia has developed the Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5).

- VQB5 recognizes the impact of every classroom, provides feedback to every educator, and supports all publicly-funded birth-to-five programs to improve.
- All publicly-funded programs that serve children ages birth-to-five are required by state law to participate in VQB5.
- Early childhood programs that do not receive any public funds have the option to participate.

VQB5 Site Participation

VQB5 includes over 3,000 sites in every city and county in Virginia, including child care, family day homes, Head Start and public school preschool programs.



VQB5 Participation Requirements

To meet the participation requirements in the legislation, all publicly-funded programs are required to complete the following three activities each year.

1

Sites must use LinkB5 to provide information about their site, classrooms, teachers, child enrollment, and optional curriculum use through the completion of various profiles.

2

Every eligible classroom must complete two local CLASS observations, one in the fall and one in the spring, with scores entered in LinkB5.

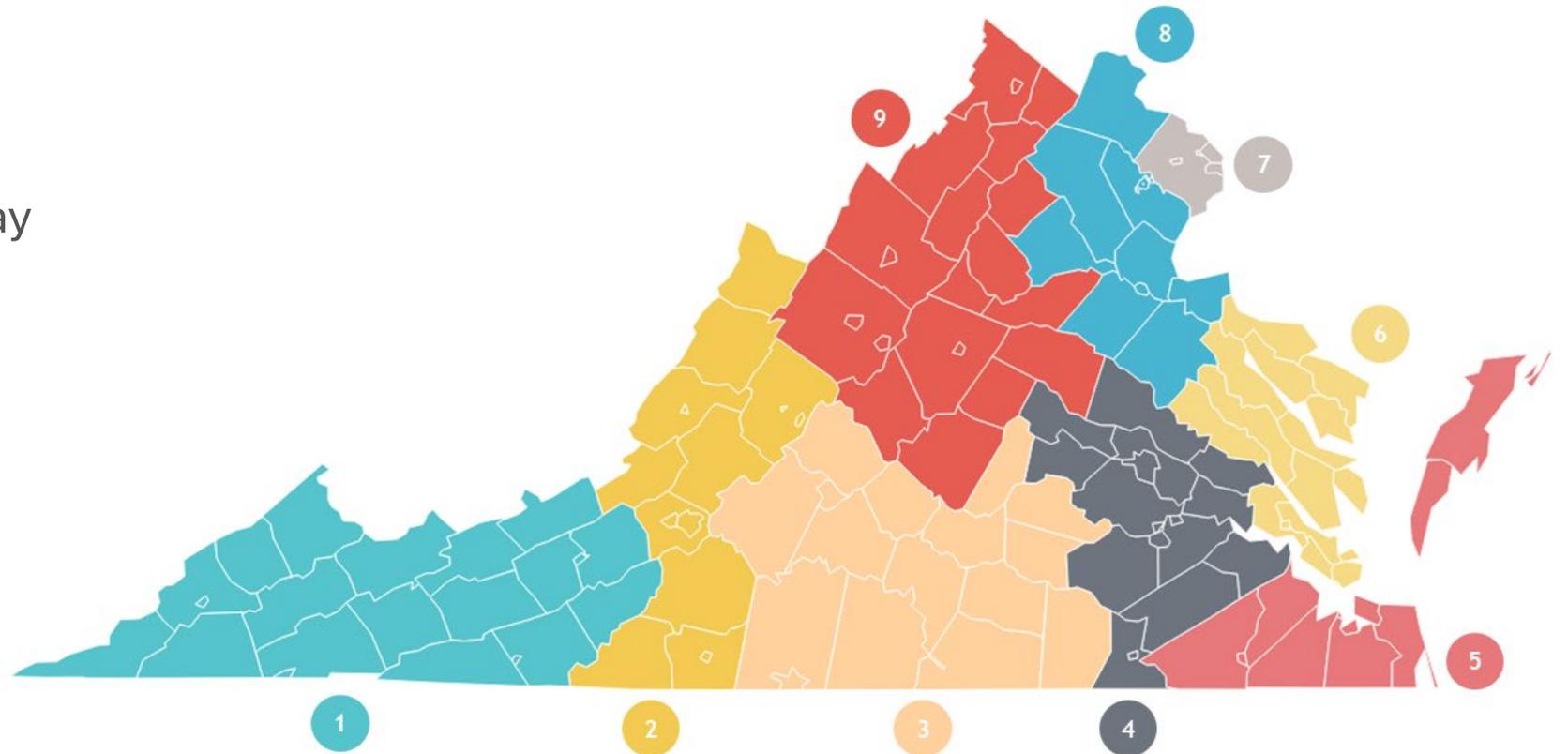
3

In addition to the two local CLASS observations coordinated by Ready Regions, all participating sites must participate in external CLASS observations for each age-level served, between August 15 and May 31.

Chat box Poll – Ready Regions

Type in the Chat box – What Ready Region are you located in?

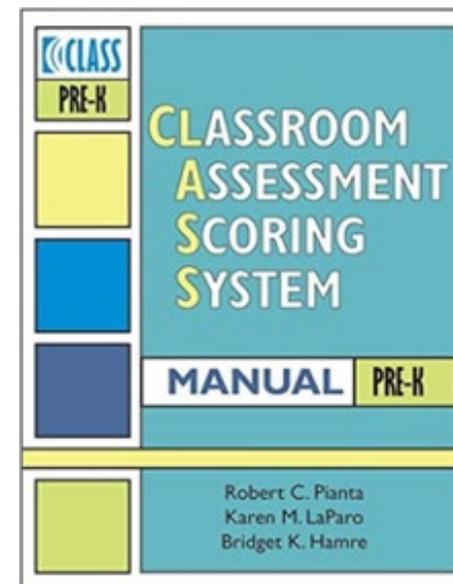
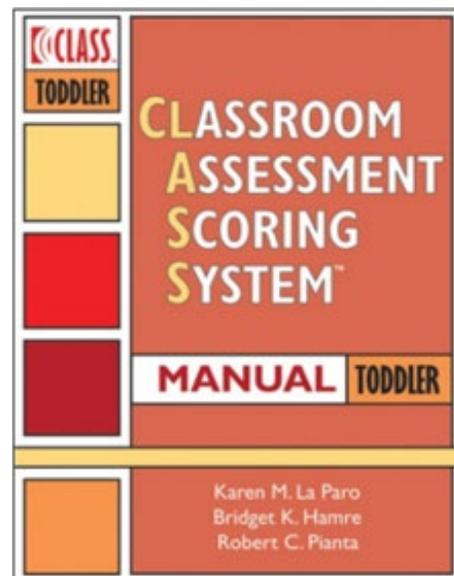
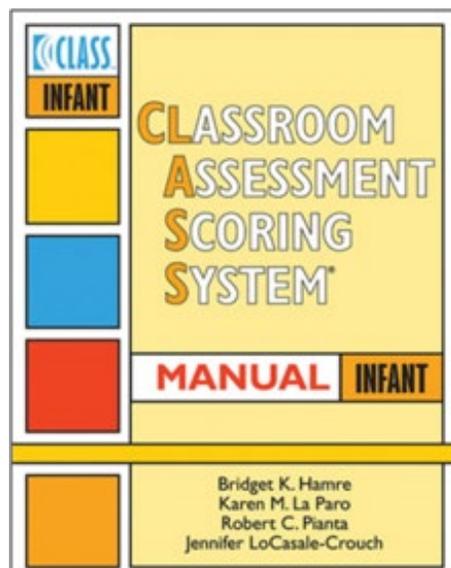
- RR 1 – Southwest
- RR 2 – West
- RR 3 – Southside
- RR 4 – Central
- RR 5 – Southeastern
- RR 6 – Chesapeake Bay
- RR 7 – Capital Area
- RR 8 – North Central
- RR 9 – Blue Ridge
- I'm Not Sure



Interactions in VQB5

CLASS Tools Used in VQB5

VQB5 uses the Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K CLASS observation tools to assess **teacher-child interactions** needed to promote child learning and development within each specific age range.

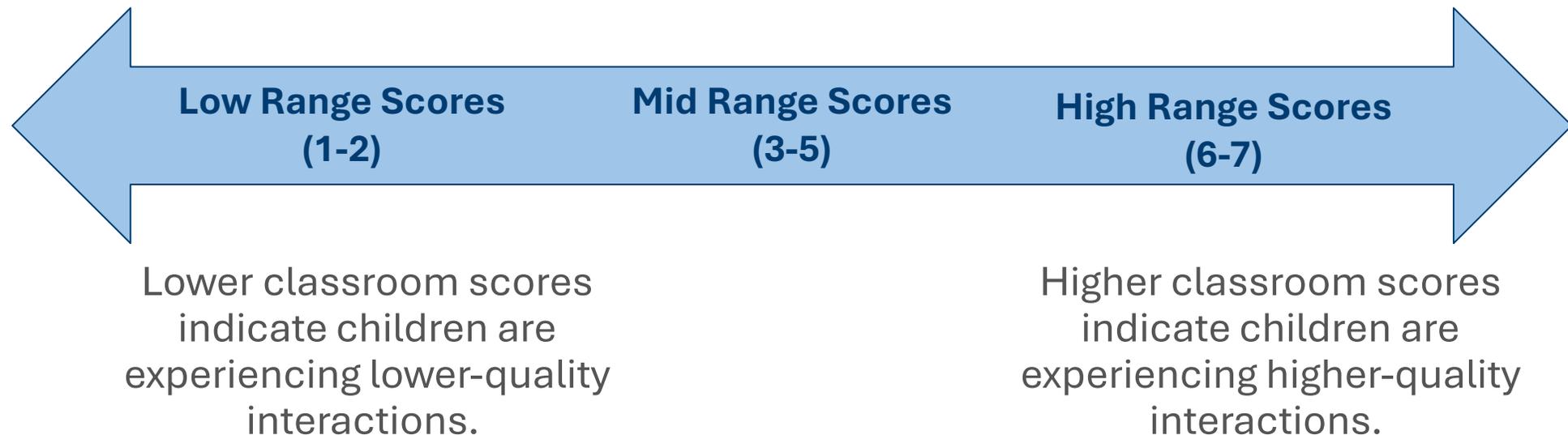


CLASS training is provided for free to VQB5 participating programs. Contact your local Ready Region for upcoming CLASS training options in your area.

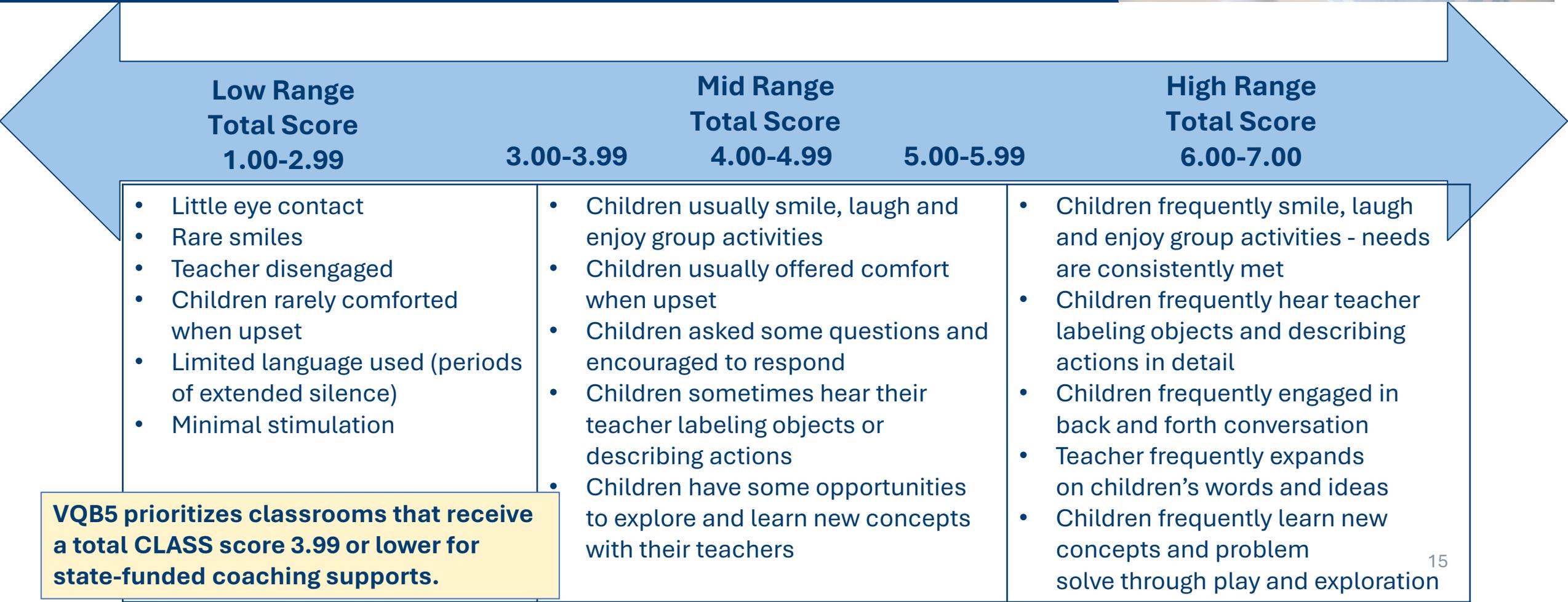
Using CLASS to Understand What Children Are Experiencing

In VQB5, CLASS observation happens in the fall and then again in the spring for every classroom.

- This provides teachers with an opportunity to recognize growth and provides program leaders with a complete reflection of what children are experiencing throughout the year.



Examples of Typical Experiences in Infant/Toddler Classrooms



VQB5 prioritizes classrooms that receive a total CLASS score 3.99 or lower for state-funded coaching supports.

Examples of Typical Experiences in Pre-K Instructional Support



Low Range Total Score 1.00-2.99

- Children complete worksheets or rote-learning tasks without discussion (e.g., flash cards, tracing letters)
- Teacher-talk is mostly directive
- Minimal conversation
- Limited chances for children to share their ideas
- Limited opportunities to be creative

3.00-3.99

- Children engaged in learning concepts through a mix of play and teacher-led activities
- Children have opportunities to respond to some recall questions ("What color is this?") and some open-ended questions ("What do you think will happen?")
- Children introduced to some advanced vocabulary
- Children have some opportunities to share their ideas and be creative

Mid Range Total Score 4.00-4.99

5.00-5.99

- Children frequently explore and learn concepts through play and everyday activities
- Children learn and use advanced vocabulary frequently
- Children engaged in frequent, conversations with peers and teachers
- Children actively predict, explain, and problem-solve frequently
- Children frequently encouraged to brainstorm ideas and be creative

High Range Total Score 6.00-7.00

Foundational CLASS Resources

The following resources can be used to help teachers and leaders learn more about the CLASS tool.

For Teachers	For Leaders
What is CLASS Info Sheet	Why CLASS (free e-book)
Dimension Guide (Specific Age-Level)	CLASS Dictionary (multiple age-levels)
Observation FAQ for Teachers; What to Expect – Teachers Overview Video (4 min)	CLASS Effectiveness Research Summary
Free Teacher Resources Teachstone Page	Understand the CLASS Tool Overview Video (20 min)
The Power of Interactions Video (4 min)	

Additional resources are available for using CLASS in [Early Childhood Special Education Classrooms](#) and in settings that serve [Dual Language Learners](#).

Curriculum in VQB5

Early Childhood Curriculum

Curriculum is what is taught in a classroom.

- An early childhood curriculum outlines what children will learn, how they will learn it, and how their progress will be assessed in an early childhood education setting.

Curriculum has many supports for teachers.

- A curriculum includes lesson plans that detail classroom activities and learning goals and can include many materials to support teaching.

Curriculum helps keep track of children's learning.

- Many curricula come with assessment tools to help teachers/educators learn what children know at different time points and pick activities to meet each child's learning needs.



Curriculum in VQB5

Using quality curriculum helps support learning and quality interactions in all types of early childhood programs.



Curriculum can be a powerful tool to support teachers in strengthening classroom interactions

- Curriculum use is not required for participation in VQB5 or to receive a quality rating.
- The choice to use a [VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum](#) in at least one classroom results in 100 additional points towards your site's quality rating.
- Curriculum use must be reported in LinkB5 by May 31 each year.
- Beginning in the 2026-2027 VQB5 program year, sites will be required to use an approved curriculum in every classroom to receive 100 points for curriculum on their VQB5 Quality Profile.
 - Note: There is **no change in curriculum points calculation** for this 2025-2026 year.

Correlation Between CLASS and Quality Curriculum

Several aspects of a quality curriculum reinforce and support quality interactions as measured by the CLASS tool. Examples include:

Quality Curriculum Component		Connection to CLASS Dimensions
Opportunities for hands-on exploration and language extension		Supports Facilitation of Learning and Development and Language Modeling
Guidance on how to individualize instructional activities		Supports Teacher Sensitivity and Quality of Feedback
Guidance for designing developmentally appropriate schedules, routines, and learning environments		Supports Regard for Student/Child Perspectives, Productivity, and Instructional Learning Formats

A high-quality curriculum and the CLASS Framework work together to promote positive outcomes for children. CLASS domains connect to all quality curriculum options.

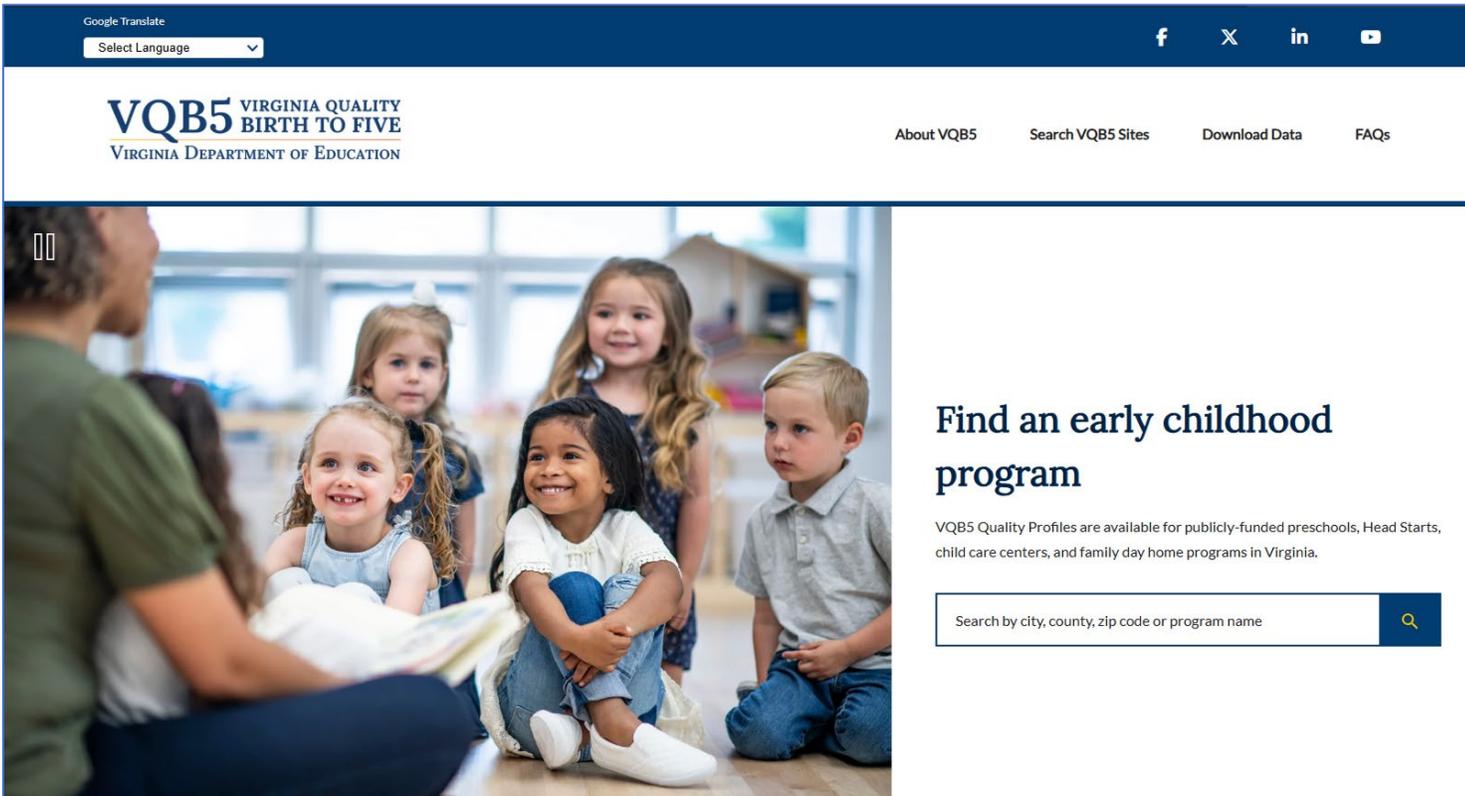
VQB5 Quality Ratings

VQB5 Quality Profile Release – Fall 2025

In October, VDOE released 3,293 Quality Profiles for 2024-2025 results.

www.EarlyChildhoodQuality.doe.virginia.gov.

- The website has been viewed 192,000+ times since launching in fall of 2024.



The screenshot shows the VQB5 Virginia Quality Birth to Five website. The header includes a Google Translate widget, a language selection dropdown, and social media icons for Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The main navigation bar contains the VQB5 logo and links for 'About VQB5', 'Search VQB5 Sites', 'Download Data', and 'FAQs'. The main content area features a large image of a teacher interacting with a group of young children. Below the image is a section titled 'Find an early childhood program' with a search bar and a magnifying glass icon. The search bar contains the text 'Search by city, county, zip code or program name'.

Website Enhancements:

- Addition of historic rating information for returning sites.
- New Honor Rolls recognize top performance and significant improvement.
- More publicly available downloadable data files.
- Improved search and sorting features.

VQB5 Quality Ratings

2024-2025 VQB5 Quality Ratings were calculated using the following point system:

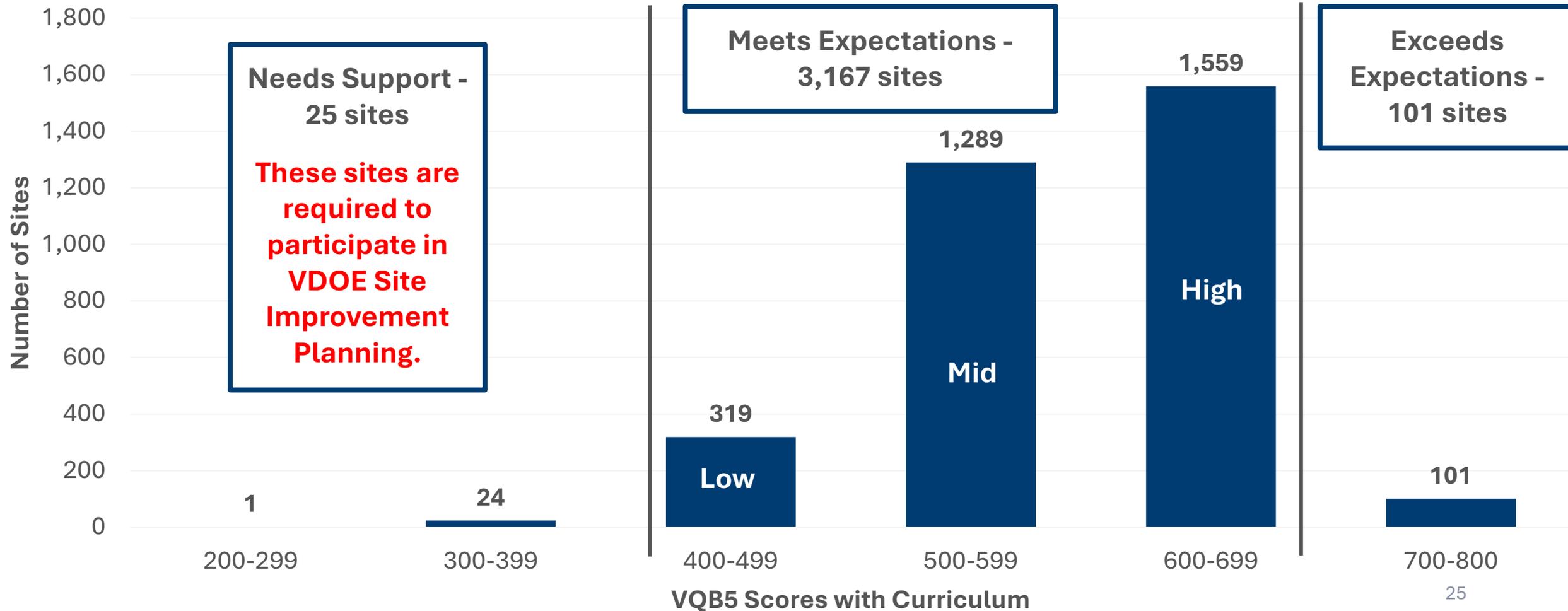
Interactions Points <i>(700 total points)</i>	Average of all local CLASS scores from the fall and the spring (<i>all VQB5 eligible classrooms at a site</i>) x 100*
Curriculum Points <i>(100 total points)</i>	Programs using a VDOE-approved curriculum in <i>at least one classroom, by May 31</i> , will receive 100 points added to their score **
Total Points	Interactions Points + Curriculum Points = Total Points
VQB5 Quality Ratings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exceeds Expectations = 700 - 800 points• Meets Expectations = 400 - 699 points• Needs Support = 100 - 399 points

**If score replacement is necessary in one or more classrooms, external observation scores will be used when calculating the interaction points for the total as outlined in Section 6.2.1 in the VQB5 Guidelines.*



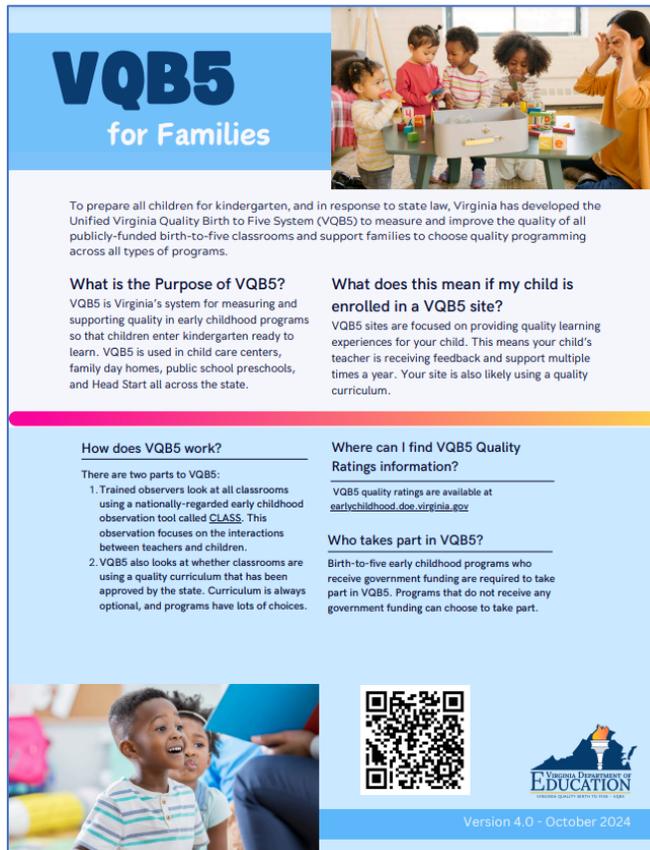
VQB5 Results by 100-Point Ranges

99% of sites met or exceeded the state's quality expectations during 2024-2025.



VQB5 for Families

Sites can inform families about their participation in VQB5 by sharing the VQB5 for Families handout – available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



VQB5
for Families



To prepare all children for kindergarten, and in response to state law, Virginia has developed the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5) to measure and improve the quality of all publicly-funded birth-to-five classrooms and support families to choose quality programming across all types of programs.

What is the Purpose of VQB5?
VQB5 is Virginia's system for measuring and supporting quality in early childhood programs so that children enter kindergarten ready to learn. VQB5 is used in child care centers, family day homes, public school preschools, and Head Start all across the state.

What does this mean if my child is enrolled in a VQB5 site?
VQB5 sites are focused on providing quality learning experiences for your child. This means your child's teacher is receiving feedback and support multiple times a year. Your site is also likely using a quality curriculum.

How does VQB5 work?
There are two parts to VQB5:
1. Trained observers look at all classrooms using a nationally-regarded early childhood observation tool called CLASS. This observation focuses on the interactions between teachers and children.
2. VQB5 also looks at whether classrooms are using a quality curriculum that has been approved by the state. Curriculum is always optional, and programs have lots of choices.

Where can I find VQB5 Quality Ratings information?
VQB5 quality ratings are available at earlychildhood.doe.virginia.gov

Who takes part in VQB5?
Birth-to-five early childhood programs who receive government funding are required to take part in VQB5. Programs that do not receive any government funding can choose to take part.



Version 4.0 - October 2024



VQB5
para FAMILIAS



Para preparar a todos los niños para el Kinder, y en respuesta a la ley estatal, Virginia ha desarrollado el Sistema Unificado de Calidad de Virginia desde el Nacimiento hasta los Cinco años (VQB5) para medir y mejorar la calidad de todos los salones de clases del nacimiento a cinco años financiadas con fondos públicos y ayudar a las familias a elegir una programación de calidad en todos los tipos de programas.

¿Cuál es el Propósito de VQB5?
VQB5 es el sistema de Virginia para medir y respaldar la calidad en los programas de niñez temprana para que los niños ingresen al Kinder listos para aprender. VQB5 se utiliza en centros de cuidado infantil, hogares familiares diurnos, escuelas preescolares públicas y Head Start en todo el estado.

¿Qué significa si mi hijo está inscrito en una localidad de VQB5?
Las localidades de VQB5 se centran en brindar experiencias de aprendizaje de calidad para su niño/a. Esto significa que el maestro de su niño/a recibe comentarios y apoyo varias veces al año. Es probable que su localidad también utilice un plan de estudios de calidad.

¿Cómo funciona VQB5?
El VQB5 consta de dos partes:
1. Observadores capacitados examinan todos los salones de clases utilizando una herramienta de observación de niñez temprana reconocida a nivel nacional llamada CLASS. Esta observación se enfoca en interacciones entre los maestros y los niños.
2. VQB5 también examina si los salones de clases utilizan un plan de estudios de calidad aprobado por el estado. El plan de estudios siempre es opcional y los programas tienen muchas opciones.

¿Dónde puedo encontrar calificaciones de calidad VQB5?
Las calificaciones de calidad VQB5 están disponibles en earlychildhoodquality.doe.virginia.gov.

¿Quién participa en VQB5?
Los programas para niños desde el nacimiento hasta los cinco años que reciben financiamiento gubernamental deben participar en el programa VQB5. Los programas que no reciben financiamiento gubernamental pueden optar por participar.



Version 4.0 - October 2024

Celebrating VQB5 Achievements

VQB5 sites and Ready Regions shared incredible moments on social media – highlighting quality achievements and Honor Roll recognition.

Celebrating VQB5 achievements online is a powerful way to show families and communities the impact of quality early learning.

Read More – [ReadyB5 Recap January 2026](#)



Wrap-Up and Questions/Discussion

VQB5 Annual Activities

Registration August 15-October 1	Fall August 15-December 22	Spring January 20 – May 31	Summer June-August
Site administrators and educators complete registration in LinkB5.	Local CLASS observations and curriculum information for every classroom used to guide improvement. Families informed about VQB5 and child enrollment information entered in student/child lists.	Local CLASS observations for every classroom used to measure growth. Curriculum use information can be updated if needed.	Preview quality profiles in LinkB5 during Data Verification at the end of July. Quality Profiles finalized by VDOE for release in the fall.

External CLASS observations are also used throughout the year at every site to gather consistency information, support local observers, and provide additional feedback.

Sites can contact their [Ready Region](#) for support with VQB5 annual activities.

Connecting CTE Competencies with VQB5

A few examples of competencies that align with VQB5, from Introduction to Early Childhood Education Course (18 weeks):

Task Number	Competency
42	Required Research early childhood education programs.
45	Research federal, state, and other regulatory agencies governing the early childhood education industry.
54	Identify developmental observation methods using data collection tools.
56	Identify developmentally appropriate practices that support and maximize development and learning for all children.
68	Determine the characteristics and skills necessary for success in early childhood careers.

Workforce Supports: Scholarships for Early Educators – Summer 2026 Semester

The [Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program](#), managed by the Virginia Department of Education, will be accepting scholarship applications for the **SUMMER 2026** semester from *March 15 through April 24, 2026*.

- These scholarships provide funds for the cost of in-state tuition and mandatory fees for students taking approved early childhood development courses at a Virginia Community College as well as SCHEV-accredited Montessori Certification Programs.
- Students may request scholarships for up to two **[APPROVED COURSES](#)** per semester. More information about this Scholarship Program for early educators may be found online: <https://www.vaccscholarship.com>.

Where Can I Learn More? – VQB5 Website Resources

VQB5 - Virginia's Quality Measurement and Improvement System

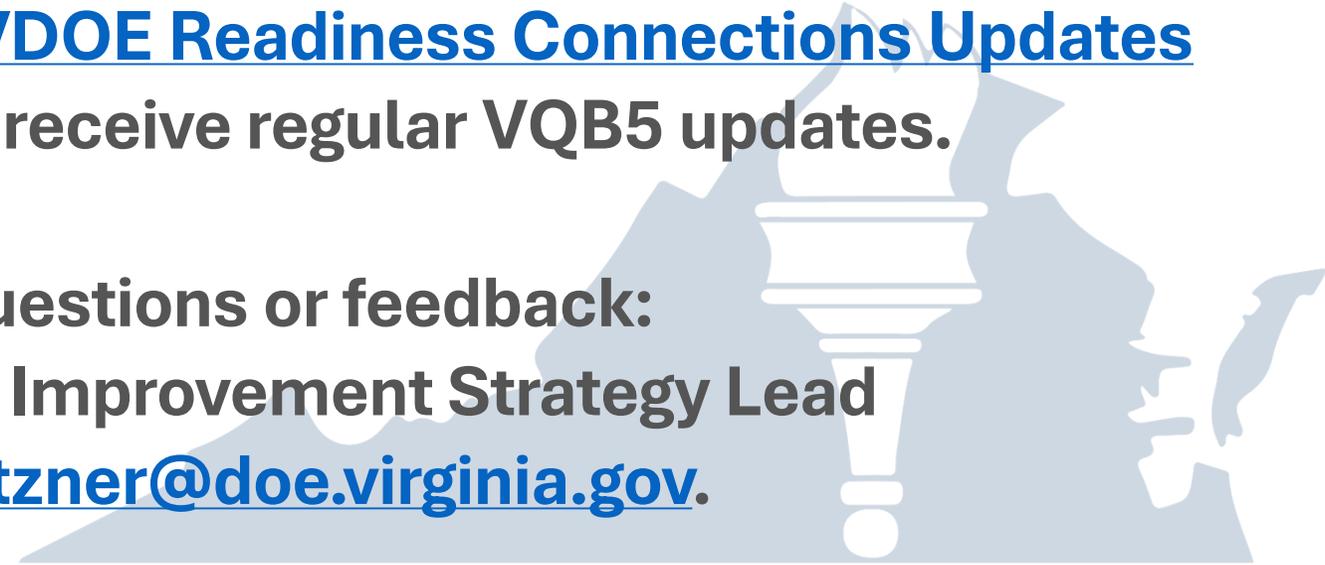
Participation	Quality Profiles	VQB5 Quality Measurements		Improvement
VQB5 Participation Requirements	Early Childhood Quality Profile Website	Measuring Quality Interactions (CLASS)	VDOE Early Childhood Curriculum	Supporting Continuous Quality Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of Publicly Funded Program Types Annual Participation Requirements Participation Handbook for Program Leaders Student/Child Lists Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Quality Profiles Honor Roll Lists Interactions and Curriculum Performance Information Data Downloads FAQs for Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VQB5 CLASS Observation Requirements Local CLASS Observation Guidebook External CLASS Observation Information Virginia CLASS Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Curriculum List CLASS and Curriculum Connections VQB5 Curriculum FAQ Get to Know You Series Library Curriculum Review Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLASS Support for Teachers Age-level CLASS Summaries Using CLASS to Guide Improvement List of VDOE Improvement Partners

Questions/Discussion

Thank You!

Sign up for the weekly [VDOE Readiness Connections Updates](#) e-newsletter to receive regular VQB5 updates.

Any questions or feedback:
Lucy Mitzner, Improvement Strategy Lead
Lucy.Mitzner@doe.virginia.gov.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

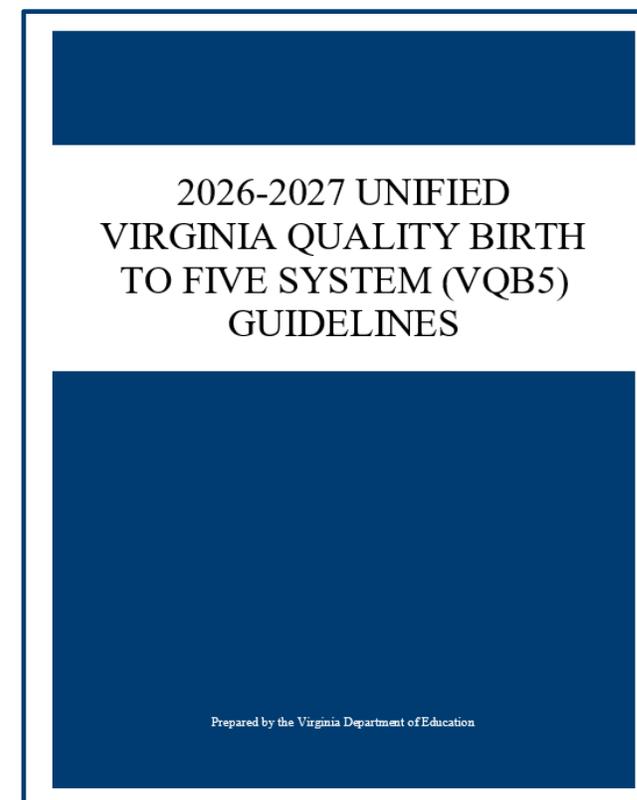
Appendix

Overview of Guidelines 2026-2027

On March 19, VDOE received a full endorsement from the Early Childhood Advisory Committee on the proposed [VQB5 Guidelines for 2026-2027](#). These guidelines follow the same pattern with key changes for clarity and impact.

VQB5 Guidelines Contents:

- Sections 1-2: Background, Vision, and Overview of VQB5
- Section 3: Participation Requirements
- Section 4: CLASS Observation Requirements
- Section 5: Measuring the Use of Quality Curriculum
- Section 6: Determining VQB5 Quality Results
- Section 7 : Supporting Continuous Quality Improvement
- Appendices: Supplemental Details and Data



View the [VQB5 Guidelines Overview Webinar](#) from Monday, 3/23 for additional information.

Types of VQB5 CLASS® Observations

There are two types of CLASS observations conducted in VQB5: local and external observations, with different purposes and frequencies as described below.

VQB5	Local Observations	External Observations
Purpose	Used to gather classroom-level information about the quality of teacher-child interactions and to provide individualized feedback.	Used to gather information about the accuracy and consistency of local observations for the state, and to provide an additional source of feedback.
Definition	Coordinated and scheduled at the local level through Ready Regions , with results recorded in LinkB5.	Coordinated, scheduled, and recorded statewide by Teachstone’s Virginia External Observation Team .
Annual Cycle	All birth-to-five classrooms will get two local observations each year. One in the fall and one in the spring.	Only some birth-to-five classrooms will get an external observation. All sites will receive an external observation in at least one classroom for each age-level.
Information	VQB5 Local Observation Guidebook	Virginia External Observations Website

Local and External CLASS Averages and Ranges

VQB5 2024-2025

Age-level trends and ranges across both types of observations are similar. Local scores on average are slightly higher than external scores across all age-levels, similar to last year.

CLASS Tool	Number of Observations	Total CLASS Average	Total CLASS Range
Virginia - Local Observations			
Infant	2,973	5.30	1.88-7.00
Toddler	7,959	5.05	2.06-7.00
Pre-K	11,693	5.15	2.03-7.00
Total	22,625	5.13	1.88-7.00
Virginia - External Observations			
Infant	1,424	4.98	2.13-7.00
Toddler	3,140	4.73	2.22-6.63
Pre-K	4,071	4.78	1.90-6.60
Total	8,635	4.79	1.90-7.00

Baseline Criteria for Early Childhood Curriculum

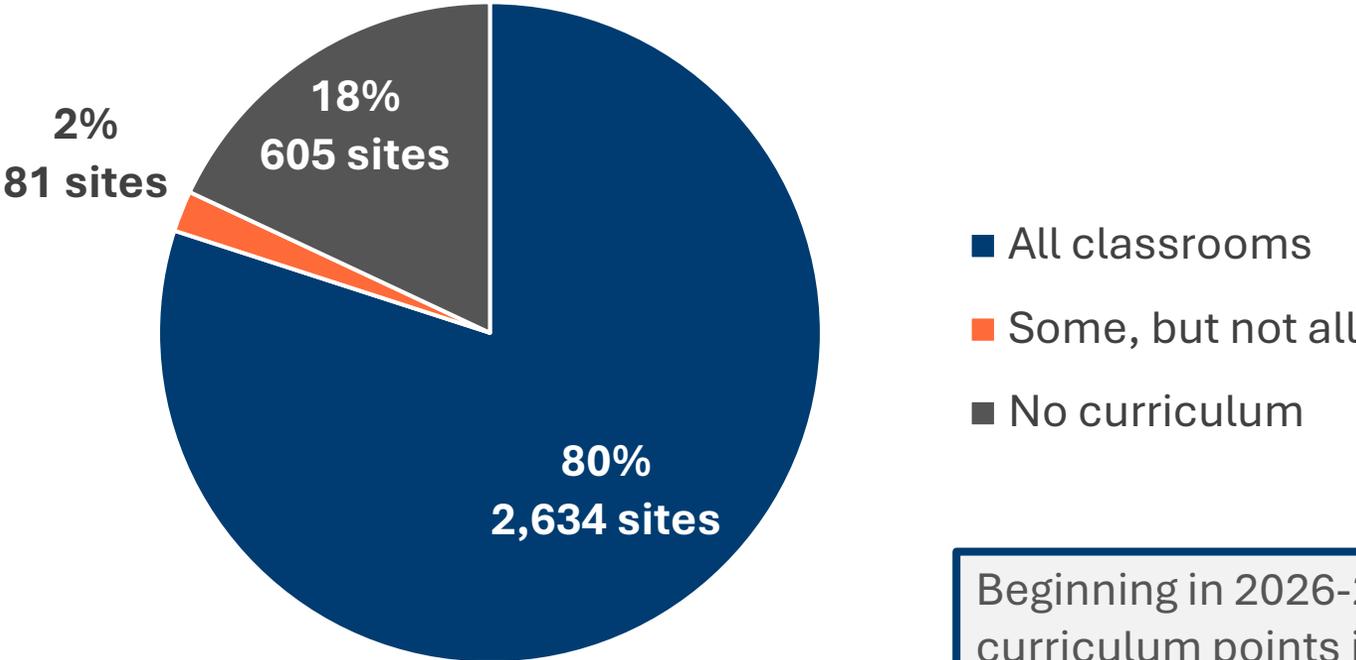
All VDOE-approved curricula must meet [Baseline Criteria for High-Quality Early Childhood Curriculum](#), which includes full alignment with [Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards \(ELDS\)](#).

The following are the characteristics of effective curricula that represent the baseline for quality for all of Virginia's approved early childhood curriculum options:

- Curriculum is comprehensive and integrated.
- Curriculum does not include copyrighted materials.
- Curriculum is research-based.
- Curriculum resources are inclusive.
- Curriculum is flexible and includes specific details about how instruction should be individualized based on the interests, strengths, and needs of all children.

Curriculum Use Fall 2025

During fall 2025 registration, most sites reported using an approved curriculum in every classroom. Sites using curriculum in at least one classroom will receive additional points toward their site's Quality Rating posted in fall 2026.



Beginning in 2026-2027, sites will only receive curriculum points if they choose to use [approved curriculum](#) in every classroom.

VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum

Virginia offers many approved curriculum options to meet the unique needs of VQB5 participating sites serving children birth to age five.

There are 79 curriculum options for VQB5 sites on [Virginia's Vetted and Approved Curriculum List](#).

Approved Curriculum Type	# of Options*
Infant	33
Toddler	40
Pre-K	62
Family Day Home	4
Spanish Translation	17
Free or Low-Cost	5

**As of January 15, 2026*

Sample of VDOE's Approved List of Early Childhood Curricula					
Approved Curriculum	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	Family Day Home*	Spanish Translation Available
Creative Curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frog Street	✓	✓	✓		✓
InvestiGator Club	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STREAMin ³	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓