

## VQB5 Participation Requirements 2023-2024

To prepare all children for kindergarten, Virginia’s early childhood care and education system should ensure that all children have quality teaching and learning experiences that meet their unique needs. In response to state law, Virginia has developed the [Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System \(VQB5\)](#) to measure and help improve the quality of all publicly-funded birth-to-five classrooms and support families to choose quality programming across program types.

<b>Beginning in August 2023, all publicly-funded programs that serve children ages birth to five are required by <a href="#">state law</a> to participate in VQB5.* This includes:</b>	
Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)	Title I Preschool
Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE or IDEA Part B, Section 619 preschool)	Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) Mixed Delivery
Head Start/Early Head Start	Federal Department of Defense Military Child Care Fee Assistance (MCCYN)
Virginia’s Child Care Subsidy Program (VA CCSP)	Federal Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)
Local government child care assistance, such as Fairfax’s Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) program	

\*Programs that do not receive public funding have the option to participate.

<b><u>PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:</u> In order to meet the legislative requirements, all publicly-funded programs are required to complete the following three VQB5 measurement and improvement activities.</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Sites must complete the registration process between August 15-October 1 in LinkB5, the VQB5 data portal. This includes completing site profiles, site administrator profiles, teacher profiles, and classroom profiles. Every eligible classroom must enter information about their optional use of a VDOE-approved curriculum, as a part of the classroom profile registration, by October 1.</b></li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Every eligible classroom must complete two local CLASS® observations, one in the fall and one in the spring, with scores entered in LinkB5.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>The fall local observation window occurs from August 15 to December 22</b></li> <li>b. <b>The spring local observation window occurs from January 20 to May 31</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>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.</b></li> </ol>

As a result of participation in VQB5, sites receive:

- ✓ **Strengthened Quality:** Educators and leaders will receive individualized feedback and support.
- ✓ **Training and Support:** Educators and leaders will have access to supports, training, and resources to help improve interactions and access to curriculum.
- ✓ **Public Recognition:** Quality profiles will be posted publicly starting in the fall of 2024. All programs will receive a certificate.
- ✓ **Financial Recognition for Child Care and Family Day Home Teachers:** To assist with providing competitive compensation, eligible educators will receive up to \$3,000 through [RecognizeB5](#).

Publicly-funded sites that do not complete the participation requirements will be out of compliance with the law and may have public funding terminated.

**Additional details about requirements and consequences will be available in the 2023-2024 VQB5 Guidelines to be released pending Board of Education approval in Spring 2023.** For more information about supports to prepare for VQB5 2023-2024, please contact your local [Ready Region](#).

Questions about VQB5 Participation Requirements may be directed to [VQB5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:VQB5@doe.virginia.gov).