# Superintendent’s Memo #125-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: May 31, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program: Preparing for 2019-2020

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) is a statewide initiative focused on building a more comprehensive understanding of school readiness and success in the Commonwealth. Starting in 2019-2020, all divisions must ensure that all kindergarten students are assessed using the VKRP in the fall and spring in accordance with state legislation ([Chapter 854, Item 128, H.)](https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2018/2/HB5002/Chapter/1/128/). The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on statewide preparation for implementing the VKRP and remind divisions of available resources and support for meeting this statewide requirement.

Your school division representative for VKRP should have a plan for the VKRP implementation in 2019-20 with the VKRP team at the University of Virginia (UVA). Divisions who are new to VKRP should schedule an in-person training session for their teachers or division level trainers conducted by a UVA Trainer. Please contact the VKRP team before June 7th if you have not finalized your plan for 2019-20 implementation (see contact information below).

VKRP is a multi-dimensional kindergarten readiness assessment of literacy, mathematics, and self-regulation and social skills. It complements the existing assessment of students’ literacy skills, using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), with assessments of students’ early math, self-regulation, and social skills in the fall and spring of kindergarten. Students’ mathematics skills are assessed using a teacher-administered, direct assessment called the Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS) similar to PALS and their self-regulation and social skills are assessed using a short teacher rating scale called the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS). VKRP is implemented by the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) at UVA in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

VKRP helps teachers better understand and address skill differences during the kindergarten year. Schools, divisions, and state leaders can use readiness data to prioritize individual student needs and target programs, resources, and professional development opportunities. The VKRP team will work with your division to ensure the success of this initiative. As a reminder, users access VKRP online through the PALS system. VKRP provides integrated and specific reports at the student (including a summary report for families), classroom, school, and division levels. The system embeds instructional resources to guide classroom practice based upon student and classroom data. The VKRP team at UVA provides assessment materials, training and technical assistance, professional development, and other supports for using the data at no cost.

Divisions are well on their way to preparing for statewide implementation of the VKRP in 2019-2020. Nearly every school division that will be new to the VKRP has scheduled their in-person training with the VKRP team at UVA. Divisions that have not yet scheduled training must reply to communication from the VKRP before June 7th to finalize a plan for implementation.

To learn more about VKRP’s mission, how VKRP works, and to find information for families, visit the [VKRP website](http://www.vkrponline.org/). For additional support related to the VKRP, or for scheduling VKRP training, please contact Wanda Weaver, VKRP Project Coordinator, by e-mail at vkrp@virginia.edu or by telephone at (866) 301-8278 ext. 1 or Erin Carroll, Director, Early Childhood Office, VDOE, at Erin.Carroll@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2263.

JFL/EMC/lh