



**#240-22**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Education  
Superintendent's Memo #240-22**

DATE: October 13, 2022  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Call for Materials for Virginia Literacy Act Instructional Materials Reviews**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is seeking applications from providers of K-3 core literacy curricular programs that align with the expectations of the [Virginia Literacy Act \(VLA\)](#). This marks the first step in the process to be included on the Virginia Board of Education's (VBOE) *Approved Core Instructional Programs*. School divisions are asked to inform potential vendors of K-3 core curriculum and/or submit any locally-created core curriculum that the division wants to be considered for VBOE approval.

The VLA, passed by the Virginia Legislature in 2022, seeks to improve K-3 literacy outcomes for all students in the Commonwealth. The VLA requires the VDOE to recommend K-3 instructional programs in literacy - including core, supplemental, and intervention materials - that are aligned with the eligibility criteria of VLA, namely evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research for approval by the VBOE. The VDOE has partnered with the [Virginia Literacy Partnerships \(VLP\)](#) in the School of Education and Human Development at University of Virginia to conduct at least two rounds of instructional material reviews.

Virginia will use a two-phase process for this first round of reviews, modeled on similar processes in other states and designed to align with the [current textbook review process](#). This

initial round of reviews will be limited to *core* instructional materials. Additional review processes will be conducted for supplemental and intervention materials at a later date.

The Core Instructional Program Review consists of these two phases:

- 1) Phase I: Initial Review for alignment to features of evidence-based core instructional reading programs, as required by the VLA.
- 2) Phase II: In-depth Program Review for detailed alignment to evidence-based literacy instructional practices for teaching essential early literacy skills, by grade level, as required by the VLA.

Please review the [process overview](#) and [recorded webinar](#) for more information.

***Interested curriculum providers and/or divisions that have created full core instructional curriculum should submit applications for Phase I Initial Review by November 1 with an recommended early bird deadline of October 21, 2022.*** To apply, providers must:

- Complete an initial worksheet aligned with the Phase I review rubric.
- Submit all information, forms, agreements and supporting instructional materials as indicated on the Phase I application via website. Submission of materials either in hard copy or via email will not be accepted.

Review teams composed of Virginia educators and experts in early literacy will review submissions. All programs that receive a rating of “meets expectations” will receive an invitation to proceed to Phase II. Programs that do not receive a rating of “meets expectations” will receive a Notice of Denial and Eligibility for Appeal.

[Please click here to submit Phase I Initial Review applications](#)

Submission of materials either in hard copy or via email will not be accepted.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis with priority going to those Phase I applications and materials submitted on or prior to **Friday, October 21, 2022**. The final date for submission for the first round is **Tuesday, November 1, 2022**.

## For more information

Email questions regarding this review process to [VLP-VLA@virginia.edu](mailto:VLP-VLA@virginia.edu).

JB/JC/la