



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

**DATE:** June 29, 2018  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program**

The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that requires all kindergarten students be assessed using the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) by the end of the 2019-2020 school year and annually thereafter ([HB5002, Item 128, H.](#)) ➔. Funding appropriated to the University of Virginia (UVA) by the General Assembly spans across the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years to accomplish full statewide implementation.

The VKRP is a multi-dimensional kindergarten readiness assessment that complements the existing assessment of students' literacy skills, using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), with assessments of students' early mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills. Students' mathematics skills are assessed using a teacher-administered, direct assessment called the Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS), and their self-regulation and social skills are assessed using a teacher rating called the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS).

The purpose of the VKRP is for school divisions and the Commonwealth to have a more comprehensive understanding of students' critical school readiness skills at kindergarten entry. Understanding and addressing skill differences are critical in preparing children for school success. Schools, divisions, and state leaders can use readiness data to prioritize individual student needs and target programs, resources, and professional development opportunities for teachers. The results of the VKRP assessments will also be used to determine how well the Virginia Preschool Initiative promotes readiness in all key developmental domains assessed. As directed by the General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Education and UVA will submit findings using data from the prior year's fall assessment to the Chairmen House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees annually beginning in the fall of 2019.

The VKRP online system is utilized by teachers to administer the assessments. The VKRP provides integrated and specific reports (at the student, classroom, school, and division levels), as well as instructional resources to guide classroom practice based upon student data. Division and teacher access to the VKRP is provided through the UVA, who provides assessment materials, training, and technical assistance, as well as supports for using the data at no cost to participating school divisions.

A school division representative should be identified to coordinate the VKRP implementation and to complete the required [VKRP Division Information 2018-2019 Survey](#) ➔ no later than **July 13, 2018**, to assist UVA staff in developing an efficient VKRP onboarding timeline.

To learn more about VKRP, access these [Frequently Asked Questions](#) ➔ and visit the [VKRP website](#) ➔. For additional information, please contact Ms. Wanda Weaver, VKRP Project Coordinator, by email at [vkpr@virginia.edu](mailto:vkpr@virginia.edu) ✉ or by telephone at (866) 301-8278 ext. 1; or Tina Mazzacane, Mathematics Coordinator, VDOE, by email at [tina.mazzacane@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:tina.mazzacane@doe.virginia.gov) ✉ or by telephone at (804) 225-4849.

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