



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 15, 2023  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Approval of K-3 Core Curriculum and Deadline for Submitting Locally-Created Literacy Resources**

This memo provides an update on the K-3 Core Curriculum approved by the Board of Education as per the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) and a reminder for a July 1 deadline to submit locally-created literacy curriculum.

The VLA is a comprehensive law that seeks to improve literacy outcomes for all K-8 students. The VLA requires the VDOE to recommend literacy instructional programs including core (K-5), supplemental (K-8), and intervention (K-8) materials – that provide evidence-based literacy instruction (EBLI) aligned with science-based reading research (SBRR).

**July 1 Deadline for Notifying VLP about Locally-Created Instructional Resources**

Since January, the VDOE has asked school divisions that want to use a locally-created curriculum to inform the Office of Virginia Literacy Partnerships (VLP) at the University of Virginia. As per the VLA, all K-5 core, K-8 supplemental, and K-8 intervention literacy instructional materials must be reviewed for alignment with EBLI and SBRR.

**Superintendents must notify VDOE and VLP of their intent to submit locally-created instructional materials for review by July 1 at [VLP-VLA@virginia.edu](mailto:VLP-VLA@virginia.edu).** With this information, VDOE and VLP can ensure sufficient capacity to review resources in time for the 2024-25 school year. These materials will be reviewed with the same rubrics as commercially

available programs but on an adjusted timeline depending on volume and types of resources submitted. Results will not be made public unless the resources are approved.

### **Core Curriculum Decision-Making for School Divisions**

**As a reminder, every division must use an approved core instructional literacy program for grades K-5 beginning in the 2024-25 school year.** If the division is *not* currently using one of the eight approved core instructional materials (see below), Superintendents should take one of these steps:

1. **Begin a K-3 core instructional program selection process now.**
  - On June 15, 2023, the Board approved the first Cycle of K-3 core instructional programs, which are included in this [Approved K-3 Core Instructional Program Guide](#). Superintendents should review the Guide and begin planning for how to engage their community in the selection process.
  - Divisions may use the Guide to begin a K-3 core instructional program adoption process. Divisions should note that the VLA requires divisions to use approved programs in grades K-5. Reviews of grades 4 and 5 will be completed during Cycle II (see below). Divisions should consider this timeline in the selection and adoption process.
  
2. **Prepare for a K-5 core instructional program adoption process in the Winter/Spring 2024.**
  - VDOE and VLP have launched the [second review cycle \(Cycle II\)](#) for K-5 core literacy instructional programs, K-8 supplemental literacy programs, and K-8 literacy intervention programs. More than 130 resources have been submitted and final results will be available in the first quarter of 2024.
  - Divisions may decide to begin their adoption process after Cycle II is complete. In the interim, divisions should begin planning their locally-driven selection processes so they can begin as soon as the Board approves programs in early 2024.

**3. Notify VDOE and VLP if Divisions want to use any locally-created instructional materials in 2024-25.**

- As noted above, Divisions must notify VDOE and VLP of their intent to submit locally-created instructional materials for review by **July 1, 2023** by emailing [VLP-VLA@virginia.edu](mailto:VLP-VLA@virginia.edu).
- In the interim, Divisions should use the [available rubrics](#) to self-evaluate their resources and begin to identify gaps. VLA requires that the same criteria for EBLI and SBRR are used with both locally-created resources and commercially available programs. Divisions should also consider what staffing and support may be needed if significant enhancements to locally-created resources are needed to meet the criteria.

This summer, VDOE will begin to release additional tools, resources, and guidance to help divisions as they engage in decisions around core instructional program adoption and implementation. Email questions regarding the Guide or next steps for divisions to [vla@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vla@doe.virginia.gov).

**Call for Reviewers**

In response to the high volume of Cycle II submissions, the VLP is seeking additional reviewers, specifically classroom teachers in Virginia. Superintendents are asked to share this opportunity with principals and educators.

Interested candidates may apply by [clicking this link](#). Some teachers may be asked to join teams as early as July, and others will join teams in October. Email any questions related to the reviewer opportunity to [VLP-VLA@virginia.edu](mailto:VLP-VLA@virginia.edu).

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