# VQB5 Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions

The following talking points are intended to address frequently asked questions regarding the Curriculum component of VQB5. More information is available in the [VQB5 Guidelines](#).

## Curriculum Reminders

- Use of a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum is optional
  - Programs can participate and meet expectations without having a VDOE-approved Early Childhood curriculum.
  - Programs are required to enter information about optional use of [VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum](#) for each classroom by October 1, with the option to update curriculum information by May 31.
  - Programs using a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom will receive 100 points towards their overall quality rating, with the goal of strengthening the implementation of curricular materials and content in future years.

- All birth-to-five early childhood educators benefit from access to and support to use quality curriculum to promote children's learning and development.

  - A curriculum component is a part of VQB5 because curriculum is a nationally recognized quality indicator. Programs that choose to use a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom will receive 100 points.

- VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curricula are comprehensive and aligned to the VA-ELDS and [baseline criteria for quality early childhood curriculum.](#)
  - Curriculum that is aligned to [Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards: Birth-Five Learning Guidelines](#) ([Spanish Version](#)) ensures children have the opportunity to access the content and skills that are outlined in the standards.
  - A high-quality, comprehensive curriculum will include resources and provide guidance on how to support individualized instruction, including for children with disabilities and English/multilingual learners.

- Programs who opt to use curriculum have many choices.
  - Programs can choose and use one of the 70+ VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum options, including open-source options with low-to-no cost training and resources ([STREAMin³,](#) [Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence,](#) [Great First Eight (Infant/Toddler)](#), and [Early Learning Matters](#)).

o Programs can request to have their curriculum of choice reviewed for possible approval. The steps to approval are outlined on VDOE's [Early Childhood Curriculum](#) webpage.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Will my center be out of compliance or lose funding if it does not have a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum?
  - o No. Use of a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum in VQB5 is optional.
  - o Programs using a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom will receive 100 points towards their overall quality rating, with the goal of strengthening the implementation of curricular materials and content in future years.

- What is the deadline to enter a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum on LinkB5 in order to receive 100 points toward our overall score?
  - o Programs can report curriculum usage at the classroom level in LinkB5 each year once registration opens on August 15. The deadline to enter information into LinkB5 is May 31 of each year.

- How can I decide which curriculum will work best for my program?
  - o Providers can find more information by visiting curriculum vendor websites and contacting the company directly to ask questions.
  - o Providers can view VDOE's [Early Childhood Curriculum Vendor "Get to Know You" Series Library](#) to learn more about curriculum options.

- Are there any curriculum options for Family Day Homes?
  - o Family Day Homes may choose and use any VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum that meets the needs of their program. VDOE continually reviews options that include mixed-age curricula.

- What does "curriculum pending" mean?
  - o When a provider requests a review of a curriculum, the publisher is then contacted to initiate the review process, and the curriculum is then added to the pending list. The curriculum review takes place as soon as the publisher sends materials in for review and are typically completed within three-four weeks. From start to finish, the entire review process takes three months on average.

- Is there a deadline for a "pending" curriculum to submit materials for review?
  - o No. Publishers may submit materials for a comprehensive curriculum review at any time. However, any curriculum that is pending as of March 15 will likely not be approved before May 31 for the current VQB5 year.

- I already use a curriculum, but it does not appear on the approved list. How do I get it added to the approved list?
  - If you are interested in adding your curriculum to VDOE's approved list, you may submit a request using the [Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#).

- I developed my own curriculum, can I continue using it?
  - If you are interested in adding your independently developed (or, "homegrown") curriculum to VDOE's approved list, you may submit a request using the [Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#).

- Does VDOE offer financial support to providers to purchase curriculum?
  - The VDOE has partnered with [STREAMin³](#) to provide a high-quality, comprehensive, low-to-no-cost birth to five curriculum option to Virginia's early learning programs.
  - Other open-source options with low-to-no cost training and resources included on VDOE's approved Early Childhood Curriculum list are [Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence,](#) [Great First Eight (Infant/Toddler)](#), and [Early Learning Matters.](#)
  - Child Care Financing Program - The [Virginia Small Business Financing Authority](#) provides no-interest, low-cost loans to eligible child care programs to enhance early learning environments, support curriculum, acquire technology/software, upgrade playgrounds, comply with health/safety guidelines, and more.

## Curriculum Resources

- General
  - [VQB5 Guidelines](#)
  - [VDOE Early Childhood Curriculum Webpage](#)
  - [Approved Early Childhood Curriculum List](#)
  - [Curriculum Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#)
  - [Baseline Criteria for High-Quality Birth to Five Curriculum](#)
  - [Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), Birth-Five Learning Guidelines](#) ([Spanish Version](#))
  - [Sign up](#) to receive weekly Readiness Connections Updates and quarterly Ready B5 Recap Newsletters from VDOE on early childhood news.

- Connection between CLASS and Curriculum
  - [CLASS Research Summary](#)
  - [Driving Teaching Quality with CLASS](#)
  - CLASS and Curriculum Connections [Infant/Toddler](#) ([Spanish version](#)) and [Pre-K](#) ([Spanish version](#))

- VQB5
    - [VDOE Quality Measurement and Improvement (VQB5) Webpage](#)
    - [VQB5 Participation 1 Pager](#) ([Spanish version](#))
    - [VQB5 Participation FAQ](#) ([Spanish version](#))

Contact [Cassandra.CaffeeMorelock@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Cassandra.CaffeeMorelock@doe.virginia.gov) if you have questions about curriculum.