

# VIRGINIA LITERACY UPDATES

March 2024



As the Commonwealth prepares for implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) beginning in 2024-2025, VDOE will be providing updates throughout this year to help support division-level planning. In collaboration with superintendents and local instructional leaders, we have incorporated feedback and thoughts from colleagues across the Commonwealth into the parameters for Division Literacy Plans now **due July 1, 2024**. Please use this update as a resource while creating your division literacy plans, planning for future training, and assessing your school division's needs around full implementation of the VLA.

## VIRGINIA LITERACY ACT

### Division Literacy Plan

Key updates for writing the DLP:

Important Links:

### Student Reading Plans

### Materials and Curricula

Current Approved List of Materials:

Appeals Process:

Supplemental and Intervention Material Approval

### Training

Literacy Implementation Network Session 1 Summary:

Virginia Literacy Playbook

Teachers and Principals Training Through Virginia Literacy Partnerships (VLP)

### Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System (VALLSS)

### Standards & Support

Timeline for English Language Arts Standards of Learning Approval

Summer Literacy and Math Symposia

### Early Intervention Reading Initiative

### ALL In

## DIVISION LITERACY PLAN

VDOE has created a [Division Literacy Plan \(DLP\) Template-Version 2](#) which is an editable Word Document that includes examples for divisions to consider. The content of the DLP remains the same and divisions may choose to use either version as they continue to develop their plans. However, **the focus on the initial DLP has been narrowed to focus on K-5 for 2024-2025**. The 2025-2026 plan will include K-8.

Divisions should create a plan relevant to the unique needs of the students and staff in each school. Divisions should follow the guidance provided in the [Instructions for Completion of the Division Literacy Plan document](#) to create a thorough and comprehensive division literacy plan.

### Key updates for writing the DLP:

- Section Two, Core (K-5) High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM)
  - Divisions should adopt HQIM from the [Core Instructional Program Guide](#) for Kindergarten through Grade 5. (No other grade levels are needed).
  - Divisions may elect to use the same core instructional program for all students, general education and special populations and would not need to complete the additional boxes highlighting these student groups. An example is included in the [Division Literacy Plan \(DLP\) Template-Version 2](#).

- Section Two, Supplemental Instruction and Intervention (K-5)
  - An initial list of supplemental and intervention program materials for Kindergarten through Grade 5 is anticipated to be reviewed for VBOE approval in April 2024 and again in late summer from the ongoing cycle of review.

### Important Links:

- [Virginia Literacy Act](#)
- [Division Literacy Plan Template- Version 1](#)
- [Division Literacy Plan Template-Version 2](#)
- [Instructions for Completion of the Division Literacy Plan updated March 2024](#)

## STUDENT READING PLANS

To ensure student reading plans are connected to students’ needs as defined by data, the template for student reading plans corresponds with the data output of the VALLSS screener. In the 24-25 school year, divisions should implement this plan for all K-3 students identified as in need of intervention by the VALLSS screener.

## MATERIALS AND CURRICULA

### Current Approved List of Materials:

**Core K-5:** The VBOE approved the [Core Instructional Program Guide](#) in July 2023 and an updated version in December 2023. Divisions must adopt an approved K-5 Core from this list by the start 2024-2025 school year.

### Appeals Process:

As indicated by the Board of Education, there will be a process for divisions to submit an appeal for Core Instructional Programs for Grades K-5. VDOE is currently developing that process. Divisions can anticipate the division appeal process to be released by **April 4, 2024**.

### Supplemental and Intervention Material Approval

1. **K-5:** An initial list of supplemental and intervention program materials for Kindergarten through Grade 5 is anticipated to be reviewed for VBOE approval in April 2024 and results from the ongoing cycle of review is scheduled for VBOE consideration in late summer. **Final K-5 supplemental and intervention programs must be determined and submitted through a revised DLP to VDOE no later than December 6, 2024.**
2. **6-8:** In Grades 6-8, supplemental and intervention programs will be reviewed using an updated rubric that captures what quality programming looks like in these grades. These programs will go before the VBOE at a future date. **This change is reflected in version two of the DLP for the 2024-2025 school year.**

## TRAINING

### Literacy Implementation Network Session 1 Summary:

Literacy Network Implementation meetings with SchoolKit, Session One, are now complete. After Session One, school divisions should feel ready to begin building their Division Literacy Plans. The following action steps should be taking place until Session Two.

- Planning for attendance at all Literacy Network Implementation regional trainings with the same team that attended Session One. Reference the full list of dates below.
- Creating the “School Division Vision for Literacy” by engaging with stakeholders, including parents, teachers, community members, school boards, and other groups who have an interest in evidence-based literacy instruction in the division. This may include local universities, public library programs, and other entities who work with children for before- and after-school care.
- Adopting HQIM from the [Approved Core Instructional Programs for Grades K-5](#) according to LEA policies.
- Sharing progress with your local school board towards creating a full Division Literacy Plan.

**Sessions 2-4:** The VDOE is excited to bring school divisions together for the second session of the Literacy Network Implementation Series training. **Divisions should try to send the same team members that attended the first session of the series to ensure consistency in division planning.** [Please register teams for Session Two.](#) The remaining session dates are listed below. Additional adjustments to locations will be communicated through regional superintendent leads, if necessary. Note: Session 3 and 4 locations and times may vary by Region. For questions, please contact Jill Nogueras, [jill.nogueras@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jill.nogueras@doe.virginia.gov).

Region	Date	Time	Location for Session 2
Region One	Session 2: March 12, 2024 Session 3: April 19, 2024 Session 4: May 14, 2024	8:00-11:00 a.m.	Beulah Recreation Center 6901 Hopkins Road North Chesterfield, VA 23234
Region Two	Session 2: March 13, 2024 Session 3: April 29, 2024 Session 4: May 16, 2024	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Tidewater Community College, Chesapeake Student Center, 1428 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, Virginia 23322
Region Three	Session 2: March 21, 2024 Session 3: April 18, 2024 Session 4: May 16, 2024	9:00- 12:00 p.m.	Spotsylvania Boardroom Administrative Services 8020 River Stone Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22407
Region Four	Session 2: March 22, 2024 Session 3: April 9, 2024 Session 4: May 10, 2024	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Meridian High School 121 Mustang Alley Falls Church, VA 22043
Region Five	Session 2: March 19, 2024 Session 3: April 16, 2024 Session 4: May 21, 2024	9:30-12:30 p.m.	The Plecker Center, Blue Ridge Community College, One College Ln., Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Region Six	Session 2: March 13, 2024 Session 3: April 10, 2024 Session 4: April 24, 2024	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Salem High School 400 Spartan Drive Salem, VA 24153
Region Seven	Session 2: March 28, 2024 Session 3: April 25, 2024 Session 4: May 13, 2024	9:30-12:30 p.m.	Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Grand Hall 1 Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
Region Eight	Session 2: March 21, 2024 Session 3: April 25, 2024 Session 4: TBD	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Estes Community Center 316 N. Main Street Chase City, VA 23924

## Virginia Literacy Playbook

To support divisions as they are making instructional shifts to implement the VLA, the upcoming VDOE playbook will offer guidance to divisions as they adopt and implement high-quality instructional materials. Elements of the playbook are being highlighted currently in the monthly Literacy Network Implementation Series sessions to facilitate the process of the division literacy plan development. **We anticipate the full release of the playbook on March 14, 2024.**

## Teachers and Principals Training Through Virginia Literacy Partnerships (VLP)

The VLA requires that educators complete training to implement the reading science shifts outlined in statute. The following no-cost trainings are available to multiple educator roles and will meet the training requirements of the Virginia Literacy Act.

Audience	Delivery Model	Anticipated Dates
Elementary and Middle School Principals	In-person	TBD Summer 2024
Reading Specialists (Additional K-3 not previously trained, all 4-8)	In-person	TBD Summer 2024
Teachers with the following endorsements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early/primary education preschool through Grade 3</li> <li>• Elementary Education Preschool through Grade 6</li> <li>• Special Education General Curriculum K-12</li> <li>• Special Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing PK-12</li> <li>• Special Education Blindness/Visual impairments PK- 12</li> <li>• English as a Second Language PK-12</li> <li>• Middle education 6-8 (English, mathematics, science, history and social science)</li> </ul>	Online Modules	Available Beginning Summer to Fall 2024

Please note the State Board of Education will consider alternate trainings at the March 27-28 board meeting. Superintendents will receive a survey shortly to list any trainings they would like considered for review. As noted on November 2, 2023, LETRS has been approved as an alternative training to the above summer training.

## VIRGINIA LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SCREENING SYSTEM (VALLSS)

Virginia is currently engaged in a multi-year process of updating its system for screening students for reading difficulties. The new screening system aligns with the most current evidence base and includes a more comprehensive and expanded coverage of skills.

2022-2023	VALLSS Pre-K	Launched
2023-2024	VALLSS K-3	Soft Launched in 17 Divisions
2024-2025	VALLSS Fully Implemented K-3	All Divisions

VLP is currently in the process of developing a screening system for students in Grades 4-8, which will be piloted and launched in the coming years. Thus, in the 2024-2025 school year, divisions should screen all K-3 students using the VALLSS in accordance with VDOE guidance.

## STANDARDS & SUPPORT

### Timeline for English Language Arts Standards of Learning Approval

Ten public hearings were held around the Commonwealth between February 5, 2024, and February 26, 2024. The Board of Education received 358 feedback comments, including in-person, via email, mail, or through an electronic form. The public comment period closed on Friday, March 1, 2024. The Virginia Board of Education will vote on final read of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* at their business meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024. Please Note: The approved Core Instructional Programs K-5 are aligned to these standards at [§ 22.1-253.13:2](#).

### Summer Literacy and Math Symposiums

To support implementation of the 2023 Mathematics Standards of Learning and 2024 English Standards of Learning, sessions will be held in each Superintendent’s Region addressing how to coach for best strong instruction through a train-the-trainer model. Divisions will have the opportunity to send a team of nine division instructional leaders and/or teacher leaders. More information regarding registration and times will be forthcoming. For questions, please contact Anne Petersen, [anne.petersen@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:anne.petersen@doe.virginia.gov).

Region	Location	Date
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1	Reynolds Community College	8/5/2024
2	Old Dominion University	8/8/2024
3	Rappahannock Community College	8/7/2024
4	George Mason University	6/27/2024
5	James Madison University	6/24/2024
6	New College Institute	6/20/2024
7	Southwest VA Higher Education Center	6/17/2024
8	Longwood University	6/10/2024

## EARLY INTERVENTION READING INITIATIVE

Versions of HB 647 have passed in both the House and Senate and are awaiting the Governor’s review. This bill removes the use of alternate screeners for EIRI compliance. Divisions should plan to use Virginia’s Language and Literacy Screening System (VALLSS) in Kindergarten through Grade 3 for 2024-2025. More information will be provided once this law takes effect. Please review the current [VDOE EIRI Assessment Schedule](#) which should be similar to the 2024-2025 school year expectations.

## ALL IN

The Commonwealth of Virginia made a significant investment in public education with \$418 million dedicated to high-dosage academic tutoring, accelerating the expansion of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA), and combatting chronic absenteeism through [ALL In VA](#) Funding for ALL In plans extends through 2025-26. Divisions can review [All In Spending Plans](#) on the VDOE Website. Divisions should consider literacy HQIM and training needs as they continue to manage this funding.