



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: July 9, 2024
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Virginia Literacy Act: 2024-2025 VALLSS: Grades K-3 Assessment Calendar**

In 2022, the General Assembly passed the [Virginia Literacy Act](#) (VLA) to improve literacy outcomes for students in the Commonwealth. As part of the VLA, K-3 students are required to be screened by a single, comprehensive literacy screener. Beginning in 2024-2025, Virginia will administer the Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System (VALLSS) developed by the University of Virginia (UVA).

The [Early Intervention Reading Initiative](#) (EIRI) supports services to students in kindergarten through the third grade who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their performance on VALLSS. Students who score in the high-risk band on the VALLSS assessment are required to receive additional reading intervention services and a Student Reading Plan.

The [2024-2025 VALLSS: Grades K-3 Assessment Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect the requirements of students taking the mid-year screener. The mid-year screener is strongly recommended for all K-3 students, and students who score in the high-risk band are required to complete the mid-year screener to progress monitor the Student Reading Plan. The mid-year screener is much shorter than the beginning-of-the-year screener, only screening the decoding subtest.

The VALLSS: Grades K-3 Certification Tutorial is now available behind the [VLP website](#) login. Divisions should work with teachers who administer VALLSS to ensure they have access to this tutorial prior to the fall 2024 administration window.

For questions regarding VLA implementation, please contact Em Cooper, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, at Em.Cooper@doe.virginia.gov.