

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). VALLSS replaces the former Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) for all Virginia students.

The VALLSS serves as an early warning system to detect reading difficulties which will allow educators to better understand early literacy teaching targets. The VALLSS contains subtests for students including Alphabet Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Decoding/Encoding, Oral Reading Fluency, Passage Comprehension, Vocabulary, Syntax and Processing.

The screener will provide Bands of Risk on the Fall, Mid-Year, and Spring assessments.

High Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk
<p>Students are most likely to have ongoing reading difficulties.</p> <p>Students qualify for Early Reading Intervention Services (EIRI).</p> <p>Students must have a student reading plan in place.</p>	<p>Requires additional explicit instruction for identified students.</p> <p>Supplemental instruction is highly recommended based on student need.</p>	<p>Students are at the lowest risk for reading difficulties.</p> <p>Cumulative review of student progress is needed.</p>

Students should be screened according to the following guidelines:

	Fall	Mid-Year	Spring
Kindergarten and Grade 1	All Students Screened	Required	All Students Screened
Grade 2	All Students Screened	Required	Students at Moderate or High Risk are Screened
Grade 3	Students new to VA public schools & students who received summer intervention services	<p>Optional Progress Monitoring Window for Students with Moderate Risk and Low Risk</p> <p>All Students scoring high risk must be screened.</p>	<p>All Students take the Reading SOL Assessment.</p> <p>Screening encouraged for students who were high or moderate risk at Fall and/or Mid Year.</p>

- The mid-year screener is required for all students in grades K-2.
- RAN is required for Grades 1-3 in Fall. For Kindergarten, RAN is offered only at Mid-Year and screening is encouraged.
- Mid-Year is a shorter assessment including only code-based subtests (K-3) and RAN in Kindergarten.

- For the Fall term, the four-week assessment period begins
 - two weeks from Grades 1-3 students' first day of school.
 - six weeks from Kindergarten students' first day of school.
- For all terms, VALLSS must be administered within any contiguous three-week (15 instructional-day) window within the four-week assessment period.
- **School holidays and teacher in-service days should not be counted in your window. Adjust the calendar to account for non-instructional days in your division.**
- The Score Entry Closes date is the deadline for entering scores into the website. Late scores cannot be entered.
- If a start date is not listed, calculate the Fall assessment dates based on the students' first day of school.

For students starting school on July 22	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 5	Sept. 3	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Aug. 30	Sept. 27	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Sept. 13	Oct. 11	Feb. 14	May 30
For students starting school on July 29	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 12	Sept. 9	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 6	Oct. 4	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Sept. 20	Oct. 18	Feb. 14	May 30
For students starting school on August 5	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 19	Sept. 16	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 13	Oct. 11	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Sept. 27	Oct. 25	Feb. 14	May 30
For students starting school on August 12	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 26	Sept. 23	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 20	Oct. 18	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 4	Nov. 1	Feb. 14	May 30
For students starting school on August 19	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Sept 3	Sept. 30	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 27	Oct. 25	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 11	Nov. 8	Feb. 14	May 30
For students starting school on August 26	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Sept. 9	Oct. 7	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Oct. 4	Nov. 1	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 18	Nov. 15	Feb. 14	May 30
For students starting school on September 3	Fall 2024		Mid-Year 2025	Spring 2025
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Sept. 16	Oct. 14	Jan. 6	April 21
Assessment Period Ends	Oct. 11	Nov. 8	Jan. 31	May 16
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 25	Nov. 22	Feb. 14	May 30