

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.

VALLSS serves as an early warning system to detect reading difficulties which will allow educators to better understand early literacy teaching targets. 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 |
|--|---|---|
| Students are the most likely to have ongoing reading difficulties. | Requires additional explicit instruction for identified students. | Students are at the lowest risk for reading difficulties. |
| Students qualify for Early Reading Intervention Services (EIRI). | Supplemental instruction is highly recommended based on student need. | Cumulative review of student progress is needed. |
| Students must have a student reading plan in place. | | |

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 | Optional Progress Monitoring Window for Students with Moderate Risk and Low Risk All Students scoring high risk must be screened. | All Students take the Reading SOL Assessment. Screening encouraged for students who were high or moderate risk at Fall and/or Mid-Year. |

- The mid-year screener is required for K-2 students and Grade 3 students who scored at high risk.
- RAN is required for Grades 1-3 in Fall. For Kindergarten, RAN is required at Mid-Year.
- Mid-Year is a shorter assessment including only code-based subtests (K-3) and RAN in Kindergarten.

Assessment Schedule

- 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 |