Curriculum Fall Webinar

September 10, 2024

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

This brief, pre-recorded webinar intends to increase Early Childhood providers' understanding of VQB5 curriculum activities.

Agenda:

• Background and Purpose

• Curriculum Use Data from VQB5 2023-2024

• Curriculum Use and Activities for Sites in VQB5

• Frequently Asked Questions

• Resources and Events to Support Curriculum Choice

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Improving School Readiness in Virginia

State law (§ 22.1-289.05.) requires the Department to ensure that VQB5 helps produce better outcomes for Virginia children.

- 40% of children in Virginia enter Kindergarten still needing to build skills in literacy, math, self-regulation, and/or social skills. ([VKRP Fall 2023](#))

- In response to state law, Virginia has developed the [Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five system (VQB5)](#) to measure and improve the quality of all publicly-funded birth-to-five programs and to support families to choose quality programs that best meet their needs.

Unified Measurement and Improvement

Virginia's early childhood system must ensure that <u>all</u> children have access to quality teaching and learning experiences that meet their unique needs.

Working together, through VQB5, we will:

UNIFY around shared and equitable expectations for quality.

MEASURE and strengthen teacher-child interactions and curriculum use in all publicly-funded birth-to-five programs.

IMPROVE supports for educators, prioritizing those who need it most.

MEASURING QUALITY IN VQB5

VQB5 measures the quality of infant, toddler, and preschool teaching and learning based on two nationally-recognized quality indicators.

Interactions	Curriculum
Measure teacher-child interactions and instruction in a developmentally-appropriate way using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)™.	Measure the use of VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curricula that are aligned with Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards.

Research shows that stimulating and supportive interactions between teachers and children and effective use of quality curricula promote children's holistic learning and development, ***resulting in improved school readiness.***

CURRICULUM SUPPORTS QUALITY INTERACTIONS AND IMPROVEMENT

Curriculum consists of the "plans for the learning experiences through which all children acquire knowledge, skills, abilities, and understanding."

Curriculum helps teachers provide quality interactions by:
- Defining specific, sequenced learning goals to meet all children's individual needs
- Providing structure, routines
- Suggesting activities that promote all children's engagement
- Offering scripts to help teachers scaffold all children's learning (i.e., how to explain concepts)
- Promoting consistency across all classrooms

Professional Development materials that accompany quality curriculum support educational leaders, trainers, and coaches to engage with teachers on ways to improve interactions and promote learning.

CORRELATION BETWEEN CLASS AND QUALITY CURRICULUM

Several aspects of a quality curriculum reinforce and support quality interactions as measured by the CLASS tool. Examples include:

Quality Curriculum Component		Connection to CLASS Dimensions
Opportunities for hands-on exploration and language extension	→	Supports Facilitation of Learning and Development and Language Modeling
Guidance on how to individualize instructional activities	→	Supports Teacher Sensitivity and Quality of Feedback
Guidance for designing developmentally appropriate schedules, routines, and learning environments	→	Supports Regard for Student/Child Perspectives, Productivity, and Instructional Learning Formats

A high-quality curriculum and the CLASS Framework work together to promote positive outcomes for children. CLASS domains connect to _all_ quality curriculum options.

CURRICULUM USE IN VQB5

CURRICULUM IS A KEY INGREDIENT TO HELPING TEACHERS IMPROVE THEIR INTERACTIONS

- The choice to use a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom results in some additional points towards the VQB5 Quality Rating. *However, this is not required for participation or required for receiving a rating that meets expectations.* *

- Programs that are interested in using a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum as part of VQB5 may:

  - Use one of the 70+ VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curricula available **_or_**

  - Request to have their curriculum of choice reviewed for possible approval.

- **Sites can update curriculum use information in LinkB5 classroom profiles through May 31st.**

VQB5 does not require the use of any curriculum.

Types of Approved Curricula

Infant	Toddler	Pre-K	FDH	Spanish	Free or Low-Cost	Total
31	36	57	3	13	4	71

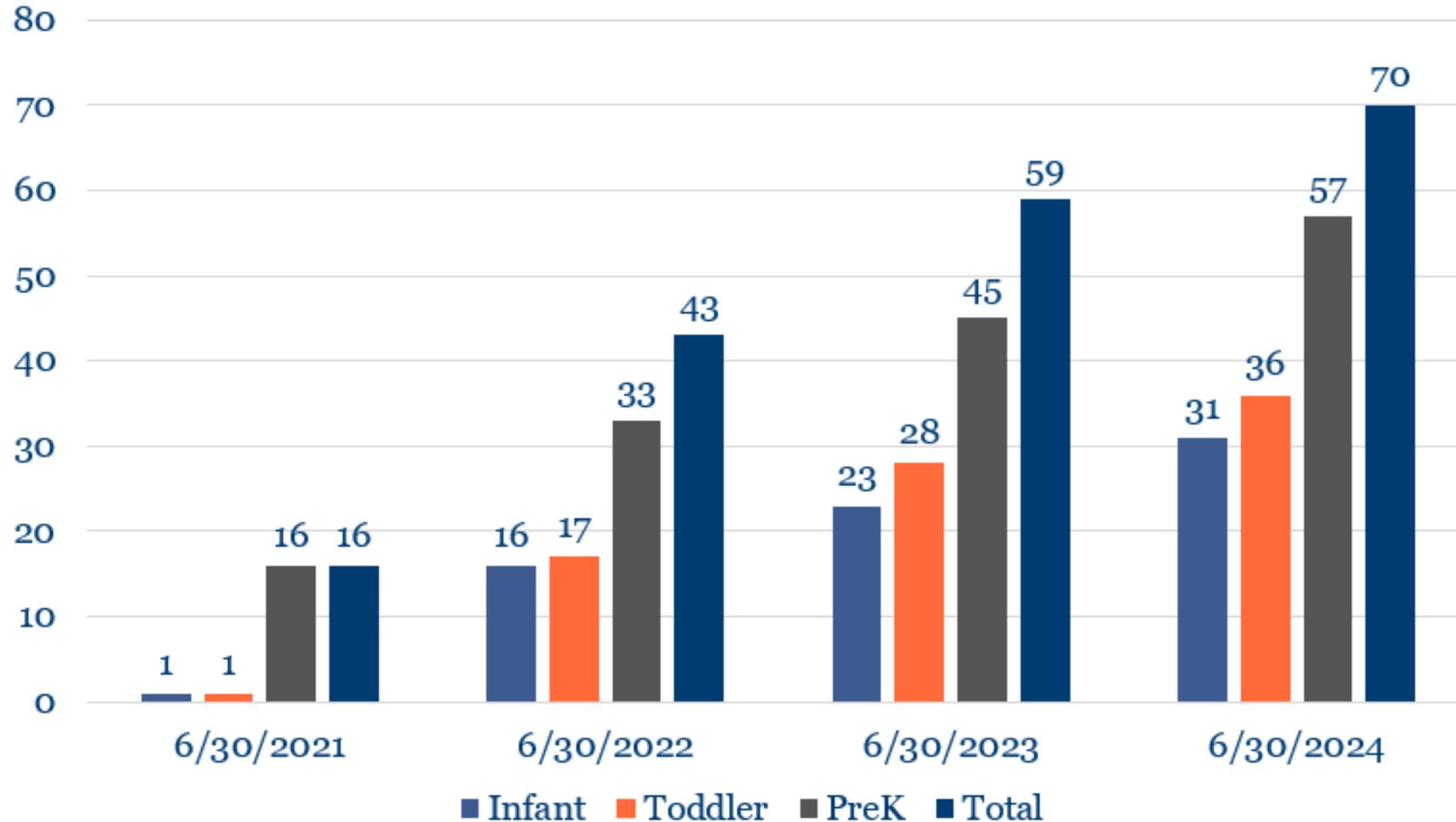**Retiring Curriculum: Big Day for PreK and OWL**
- School Divisions using retired curriculum will be contacted to provide support and resources to inform adoption of a new curriculum.

Family Day Home Curricula
- Family Day Home curricula are developed specifically for Family Day Home settings.
- Family Day Home programs may choose and use any Infant, Toddler, Preschool, or Family Day Home curriculum.

Programs that choose to use a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum will receive an additional 100 points to their overall VQB5 quality rating.
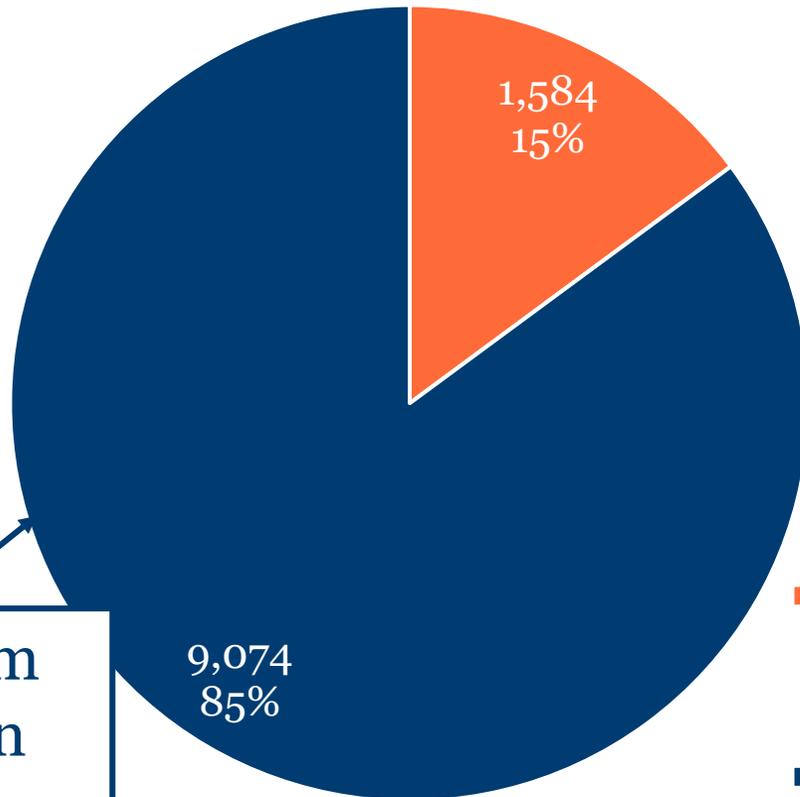
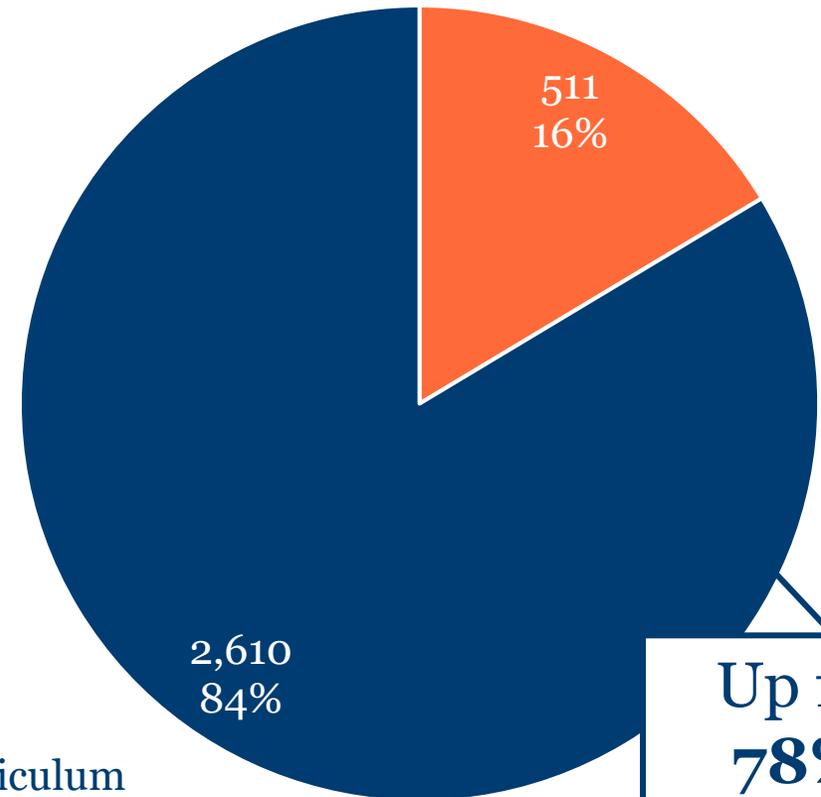# GROWTH OF CURRICULUM OPTIONS

VQB5 Curriculum Use 2023-2024

CURRICULUM IN CLASSROOMS VS. SITES

The majority of VQB5 classrooms and sites chose to use a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum.
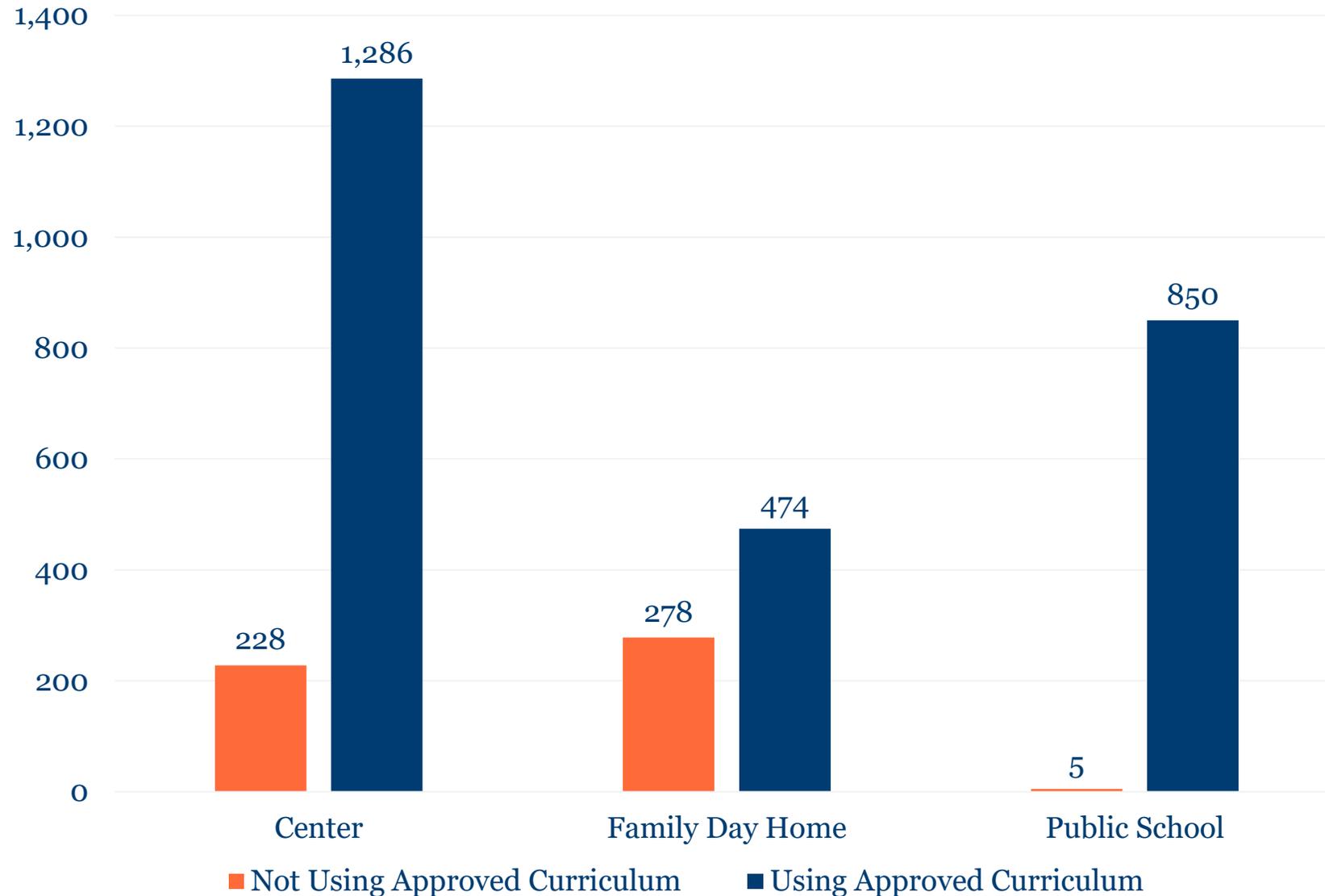
Classrooms

1,584
15%

9,074
85%

- Not Using Approved Curriculum

- Using Approved Curriculum

Up from **82%** in 2022-2023
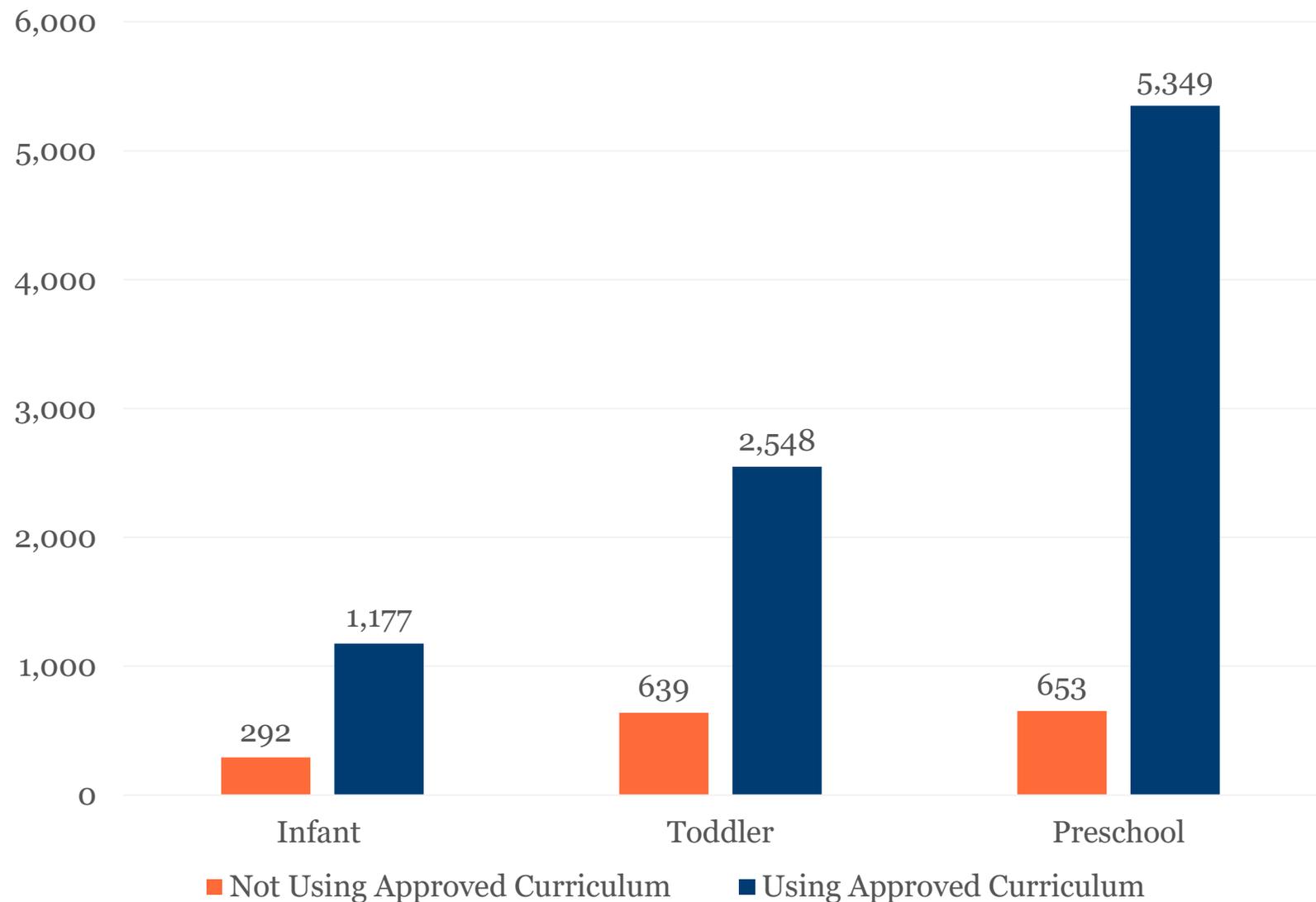
Sites

511
16%

2,610
84%

Up from **78%** in 2022-2023

CURRICULUM USE BY SITE TYPE

85% of Centers and 99% of public schools reported using a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum, while only 63% of family day homes reported using a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum.

Center: Not Using Approved Curriculum 228, Using Approved Curriculum 1,286

Family Day Home: Not Using Approved Curriculum 278, Using Approved Curriculum 474

Public School: Not Using Approved Curriculum 5, Using Approved Curriculum 850

Legend:
- ■ Not Using Approved Curriculum
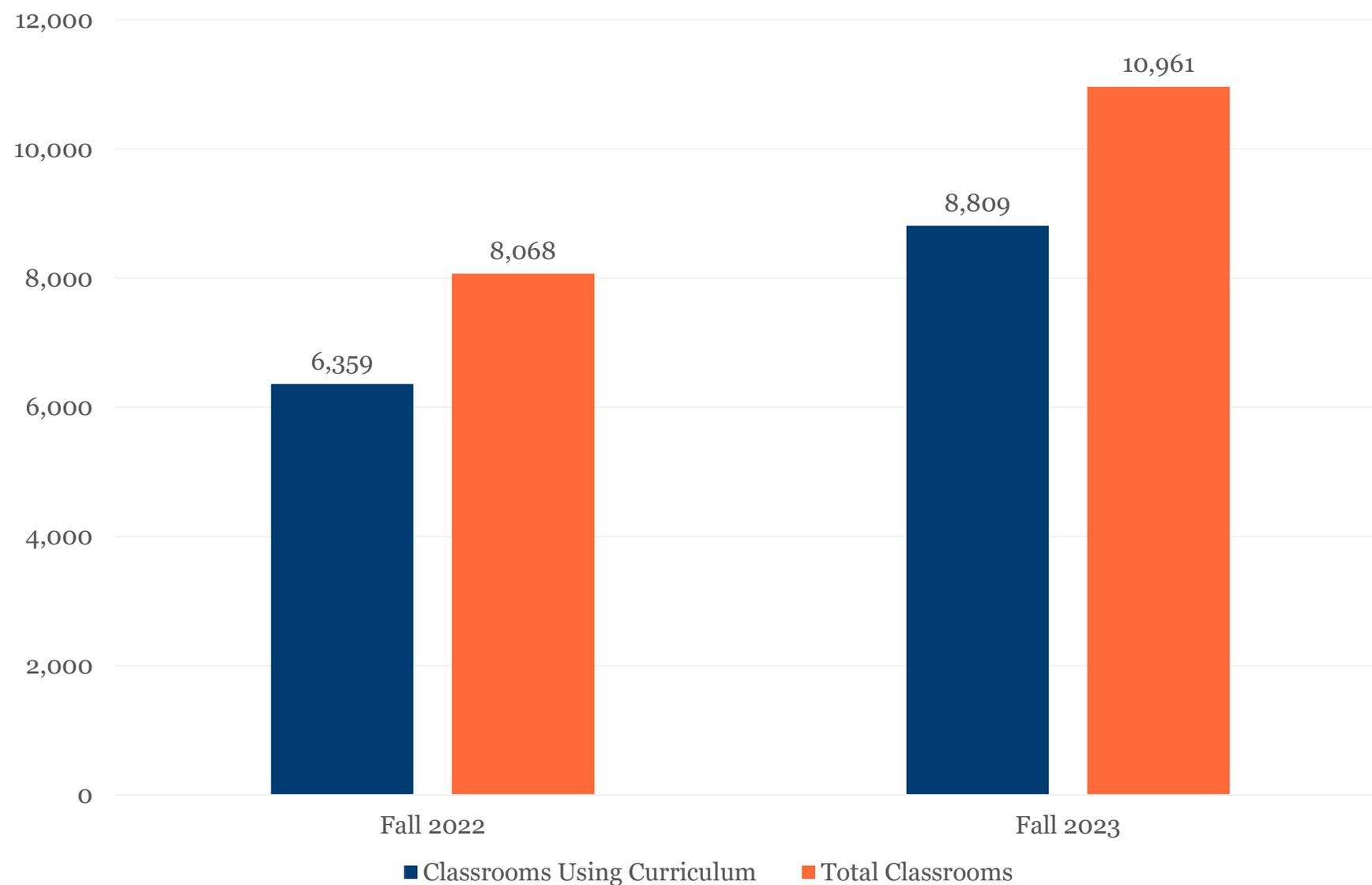- ■ Using Approved Curriculum

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CURRICULUM USE BY CLASSROOM AGE LEVEL

All age levels reported high use of curriculum in classrooms.
- Infant: 80%
- Toddler: 80%
- Preschool: 89%

2022 Fall to 2023 Fall Curriculum Growth

2,450 more classrooms reported using a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum at the end of 2023 registration. This is consistent with the growth seen in classrooms from 2022 registration to 2023 registration.

Curriculum Actions and Choices

CURRICULUM ACTIONS

Programs must report VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum use in all classrooms in LinkB5 during registration.

- ✓ Curriculum entries do not carry over year to year
- ✓ Curriculum use is optional in VQB5, reporting curriculum use is required.
- ✓ Programs have the option to update curriculum use information in LinkB5 through May 31.

CURRICULUM CHOICES IN FALL 2024

Adopt a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom.

Expand approved curriculum use to more than one classroom within your site.

Choose not to adopt a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum.

Seek approval for a curriculum already in use.

The use of a VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum in VQB5 is optional.

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRICULUM

Use of an effective curriculum includes professional development resources and materials to support implementation and continuous improvement.

- Assistance in understanding options for approved curricula materials

- Training on specific aspects of effective curriculum implementation (such as assessment, individualizing for children with special needs)

- Introductory training on implementing Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), Birth-to-Five Learning Guidelines, and curriculum alignment.

- Virginia Early Learning and Development Standards micro-credential through the Radford University IMPACT Lab (Available in English and Spanish)

- Training on curricula that align with CLASS

- Seek support from one of the VDOE Improvement Partner organizations

Open Educational Resources (OERs)

The VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum list includes four low-to-no-cost curriculum options:

- Great First Eight (Infant/Toddler)
    - Pre-K version is pending

- Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence

- Early Learning Matters

- STREAMin^3

Increasing Access to Quality Early Learning Experiences through STREAMin³

STREAMin³ provides access to a low-to-no cost comprehensive early childhood curriculum for any publicly-funded birth-to-five provider in Virginia.
- Programs can visit Streamin3.org and hit "Get the Curriculum" to request enrollment at any time.
- Enrolled programs get access to the new digital portal to access the curriculum.

The STREAMin³ Curriculum:
- Aligns with Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards.
- Supports skills and interactions that align to the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS and the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP).

Implementation supports include free professional development (PD) to help programs adopt and use the curriculum.
- On Demand Learning
- Webinars
- Live Online Events
- Office Hours

The STREAMin³ Curriculum Model was selected through a competitive process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CURRICULUM FAQS

Q: **How can I decide which curriculum will work best for my program?**

> **A:** Programs can find more information by visiting curriculum vendor websites and contacting the company directly to ask questions. Programs can also view VDOE's Early Childhood Curriculum Vendor "Get to Know You" Series Library to learn more about curriculum options.

Sample of VDOE's Approved List of Early Childhood Curricula					
Approved Curriculum	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	Family Day Home*	Spanish Translation Available
Frog Street	✓	✓	✓		✓
InvestiGator Club	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seedlings	✓	✓	✓		
STREAMin3	✓	✓	✓		
The Creative Curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

CURRICULUM FAQS

Q: **I already use a curriculum, but it does not appear on the VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum list. How do I get it added?**
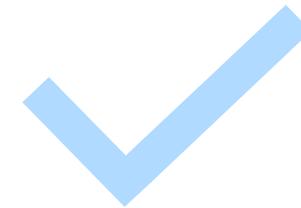
> **A:** If you are interested in submitting your curriculum for review, you may submit a request using the Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth-to-Five Programs. From start to finish, the entire review process takes three months on average.

The curriculum is reviewed for baseline criteria using the pre-submission checklist.

The curriculum and materials undergo a thorough review by a curriculum expert.

A curriculum approval decision is made, and the list is updated.

CURRICULUM FAQS

Q: **What does "curriculum pending" mean?**

> **A:** 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.

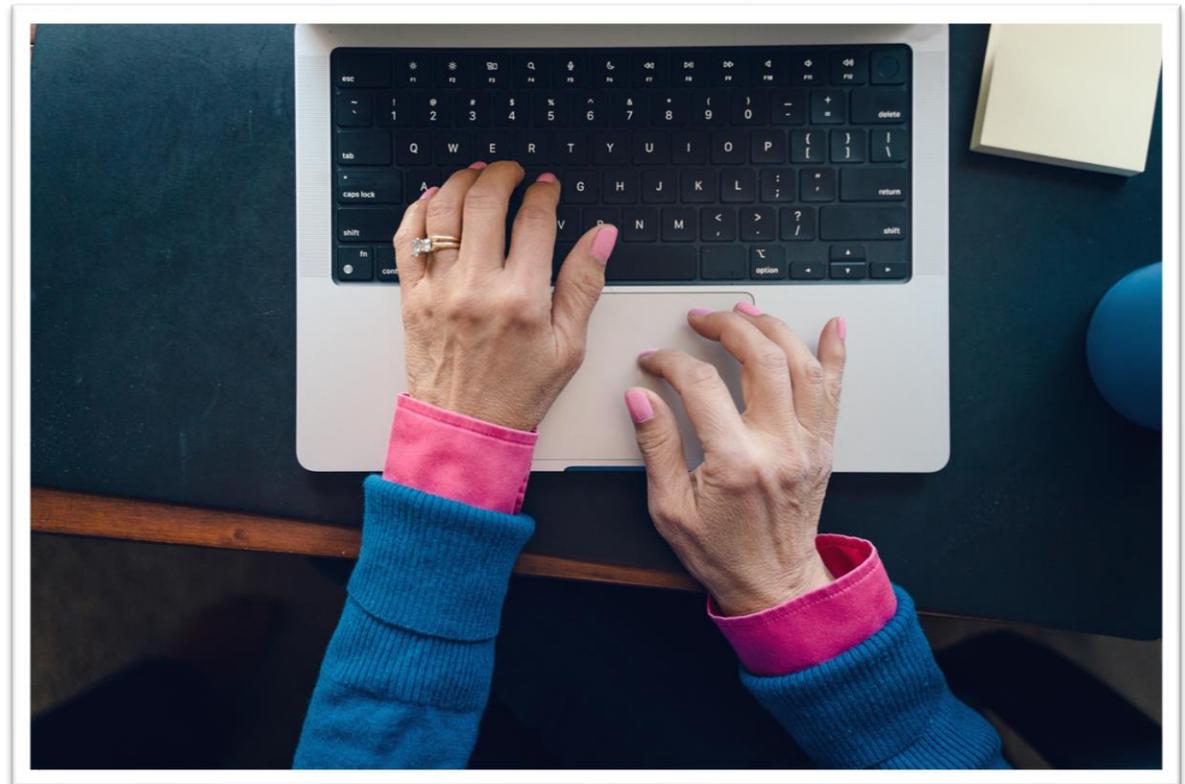**Pending Early Childhood Curricula as of August 31, 2024**

Infant	Toddler	Pre-K	FDH	Spanish	Free or Low-Cost	Total
5	6	11	0	0	1	12

EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM RESOURCES AND NEXT STEPS

EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM WEBPAGE

All Early Childhood Curriculum information and resources are available on VDOE's Early Childhood Curriculum webpage.

- Importance of Curricula
- VQB5 Curriculum FAQ
- Connection between CLASS and Curriculum Resources
- VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum List
- Curriculum Review Process
- Resources to support Curriculum Choice, including webinar recordings

THE ECE RESOURCE HUB

The [ECE Resource Hub](#) provides free resources to support children's learning and development for children from birth to five, including motor skills, language and literacy, early math, problem-solving, and more!

[**Subscribe to the ECE Resource Hub's Newsletter**](#)

COMING SOON! CURRICULUM FOR FAMILIES

This one-pager will provide families with a basic understanding of the role of curriculum in VQB5.

- Why curriculum is measured

- How curriculum supports quality

- How the use of curriculum prepares a child for kindergarten and beyond

IMPORTANT CURRICULUM DATES

- **LinkB5 Registration ends October 1**
  - Programs must enter information about optional use of approved curriculum for each classroom in LinkB5

- **Curriculum Reviews are ongoing through March 15**
  - Programs using a pending curriculum will be notified of its status by March 1.

- **Programs can make updates to curriculum use in LinkB5 until May 31**
  - Sites using a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom by May 31 will be awarded 100 points for the quality rating.
  - No later than July 15, sites will receive notice via email that draft profiles are uploaded in LinkB5 and will have 10 business days to log in and review data, including curriculum use (data verification process).

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NEXT STEPS

✓ Explore the [VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum list](#) and the [VDOE Early Childhood Curriculum webpage](#).

✓ Contact your [Ready Region](#) for information about curriculum supports
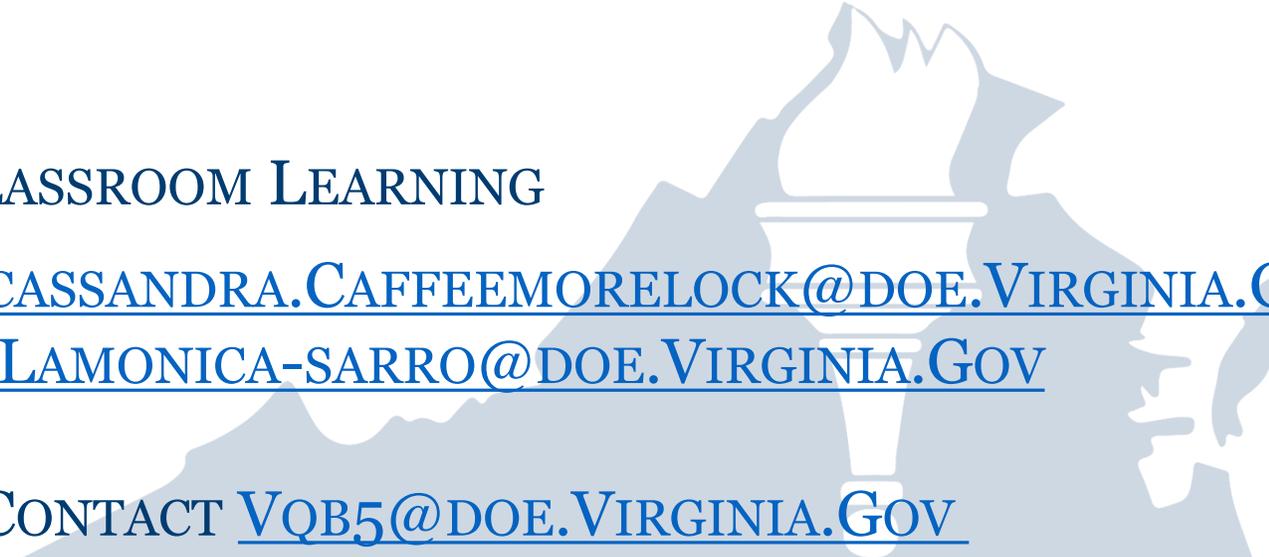
✓ [Sign up for Readiness Connections](#)

Contact Us!

Office Of Early Childhood Classroom Learning

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Marie Lamonica-sarro: marie.Lamonica-sarro@doe.Virginia.Gov

for General VQB5 Inquiries, Contact Vqb5@doe.Virginia.Gov

APPENDIX

Developing Curriculum Review Process

Virginia developed its own process for reviewing curriculum based on national best practices:

- Virginia identified the common characteristics of effective curricula, using the [National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL)](#): *Preschool Curriculum Consumer Report,* to develop the baseline criteria for birth-to-five curriculum.

- In PDG B-5, Virginia identified the school readiness indicators that would become VQB5 measurement: interactions and curriculum, with the intention of expanding the VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum list to span birth-to-five.

- Mirroring a successful curriculum vetting process used in Louisiana, Virginia engaged local early childhood consultants to collaborate and build the VDOE-Approved Early Childhood Curriculum list.

VDOE-Approved Infant Curricula

- ABCJesusLovesMe
- Ascend Curriculum
- Beyond Cribs and Rattles
- Creative Learning (TEE Spot)
- Creative World School: 3 Es Foundation of Excellence
- Early Learning Matters
- Experience Early Learning/Mother Goose Time
- Frog Street
- Lillio Learning (formerly FunShine Express)
- Golden Path Sterling Curriculum
- Great First Eight (Infant/Toddler)
- HighReach Learning
- HighScope
- InvestiGator Club
- Kiddie Academy Life Essentials
- Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies

- KinderCare
- Learn Every Day
- Learn From the Start
- Learning Beyond Paper
- Learning Experience Academic Program (L.E.A.P.)
- Montessori Birth Through Five Curriculum: Virginia Montessori Association
- PLAYWORKS
- Primrose Balanced Learning
- Robert E. Simon Jr. Children's Center, Inc.
- Seedlings
- STREAMin^3
- The Creative Curriculum
- Wonder of Learning (Goddard School)
- World at Their Fingertips (Bright Horizons)

VDOE-Approved Toddler Curricula

- ABCJesusLovesMe
- Ascend Curriculum
- Beyond Cribs and Rattles
- Callahan Education
- Creative Learning (TEE Spot)
- Creative World School: 3 Es Foundation of Excellence
- Early Learning Matters
- Experience Early Learning/Mother Goose Time
- Frog Street
- Lillio Learning (formerly FunShine Express)
- Get Set for School (Learning Without Tears)
- Golden Path Sterling Curriculum
- Great First Eight (Infant/Toddler)
- HighReach Learning
- HighScope
- InvestiGator Club

- Kiddie Academy Life Essentials
- Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies
- KinderCare
- Learn Every Day
- Learn From the Start
- Learning Beyond Paper
- Learning Experience Academic Program (L.E.A.P.)
- Montessori Birth Through Five Curriculum: Virginia Montessori Association
- PLAYWORKS
- Primrose Balanced Learning
- Robert E. Simon Jr. Children's Center, Inc.
- Seedlings
- STREAMin^3
- The Creative Curriculum
- Wonder of Learning (Goddard School)
- World at Their Fingertips (Bright Horizons)

VDOE-Approved Pre-K Curricula

- ABCJesusLovesMe
- Ascend Curriculum
- Big Day for PreK (*retired*)
- Blueprint
- Brain Based Learning by Blue Ribbon Results
- Callahan Education
- Childtime Empowered Child
- Connect4Learning
- Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence
- Creative Learning (TEE Spot)
- Creative World School: 3 Es Foundation of Excellence
- Curiosity Corner, 2nd Edition
- Early Learning Matters

- Exceed Preschool Curriculum (4-year-old)
- Experience Early Learning (Mother Goose Time)
- Fairfax County Public Schools Pre-K Curriculum
- Frog Street
- Funnydaffer
- Lillio Learning (formerly FunShine Express)
- Get Set for School (Learning Without Tears)
- Golden Path Sterling Curriculum
- HighReach Learning
- HighScope
- InvestiGator Club
- Kiddie Academy Life Essentials
- Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies

VDOE-Approved Pre-K Curricula

- KinderCare
- LaPetite Academy Early Innovators
- Learn As We Grow
- Learn Every Day
- Learning Beyond Paper
- Learning Experience Academic Program (L.E.A.P.)
- Montessori Birth Through Five Curriculum: Virginia Montessori Association
- Opening the World of Learning (OWL) (*retired*)
- PLAYWORKS
- PreK On My Way

- Primrose Balanced Learning
- Ready to Advance (Benchmark)
- Robert E. Simon Jr. Children's Center, Inc.
- Seedlings
- STREAMin^3
- The Creative Curriculum
- Three Cheers for Pre-K
- Tools of the Mind
- Virginia Beach Pre-K Curriculum
- Wonder of Learning (Goddard School)
- World at Their Fingertips (Bright Horizons)
- World of Wonders

VDOE-Approved Family Day Home Curricula

Family Day Home curricula are developed specifically for Family Day Home settings. Family Day Home programs may choose and use any Infant, Toddler, Preschool, or Family Day Home curriculum.

- InvestiGator Club Family Child Care Program

- The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care, 3rd Edition

- The Gee Whiz Curriculum for Family Child Care

Pending Curricula as of September 1, 2024

- Abeka
- Beautiful Beginnings
- Exceed Preschool Curriculum (3-year-old)
- Great First Eight (PreK)
- Lisa Good's Just Montessori Cultural Curriculum
- Learning Box Preschool

- Lovely Commotion Preschool Resources
- Pocket of Preschool
- Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia
- STEM Preschool Learning
- Jamie Mintz Homegrown Curriculum
- WEE Learn Curriculum

VDOE IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS

- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation - Ready Regions
  - Bring coordination, accountability, and family engagement to early education programs in every community in the Commonwealth.

- Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)
  - Improve the quality of care and education that infants and toddlers receive in child day centers and family day homes, increasing provider education and competency, and increasing the use of practices to promote social and emotional development of infants and toddlers.

- Training and Technical Assistance Centers (TTAC)
  - Provide professional development, technical assistance, and resources to school divisions, programs, and classrooms serving children ages 2-5 with Individualized Education Programs (IEP).

VDOE Improvement Partners

- [Advancing Effective Interactions and Instruction](#) (AEII)
  - Assist in using data to improve the quality of teacher-child interactions, curriculum, and professional development.

- [STREAMin³ Curriculum Model and PD Support](#)
  - Low-to-no cost comprehensive birth-to-five curriculum option. Online materials and PD tools available to all publicly-funded early childhood programs in Virginia.

- [Virginia Early Childhood Consultation](#) (VECC)
  - Coaching and consultation services for sites who receive a Needs Support VQB5 Quality Rating.