



#125-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #125-22**

DATE: June 17, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Update on Virginia's Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System - VQB5 Practice Year 2**

Virginia's early childhood system must ensure that all children have quality teaching and learning experiences that help prepare them for kindergarten. To support this goal, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has been charged to build a unified system that recognizes the impact of every classroom, provides feedback to every teacher, and supports system-wide improvement through the [Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System \(VQB5\)](#). This memo provides information on the expectations for school divisions.

As part of VQB5, every early childhood classroom in a public school will receive feedback and support on two nationally-recognized quality indicators: Interactions (measured through twice annual [CLASS](#) observations in each classroom) and Curriculum. VQB5 has two practice years to provide teachers and administrators the opportunity to practice receiving and using feedback, and provide insights on implementation to the VDOE. During this past year (2021-2022), 55% of Virginia's public school preschool programs participated in the first VQB5 practice year. On June 15, 2022 the Virginia Board of Education approved the [Guidelines for Practice Year 2 of VQB5](#), which will take place from August 2022 - July 2023.

VQB5 for Public Schools in the 2022-2023 School Year - Practice Year

2022-2023 is the second and final practice year for VQB5. All divisions should participate in the 2022-2023 practice year to prepare for the 2023-2024 VQB5 requirement.

School divisions that participate in the 2022-2023 practice year will receive:

- Training and support, including [CLASS](#) training and resources, to strengthen quality
- A “practice VQB5 rating” shared privately with leaders in fall 2023 (practice ratings are not posted publicly)

Registration for the second practice year will occur between August 1 - September 16, 2022 through [Ready Regions](#), and will be available in every part of Virginia. School divisions may indicate their interest in participating in Practice Year 2 at any time by filling out the [VQB5 Interest Form](#).

Participation in the 2022-2023 VQB5 Practice Year is strongly encouraged for all school divisions. School divisions that have early childhood classrooms and opt not to participate should notify the VDOE of this by September 16, by emailing vqb5@doe.virginia.gov, per the requirement in the [2022-2023 VPI Guidelines](#).

VQB5 for Public Schools in the 2023-2024 School Year - Required Participation

Participation in VQB5 will be **required** for every [early childhood site](#) that takes public funding by fall 2023, including public schools with pre-K classrooms. This includes classrooms that are funded by Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)/IDEA, Head Start, or Title I. Measurement information for each school will be shared publicly by fall 2024.

For More Information

Two additional webinars will be hosted for both VPI and ECSE programs to provide additional information on the 2022-2023 Practice Year for VQB5:

- **June 22 at 12 pm** - VQB5 Information Session for VPI Coordinators - [Info and Registration](#)
- **August 17 at 12 pm** - VQB5 Information Session for ECSE Coordinators - [Info and Registration](#)

Additional information about VQB5 can be found on the [VDOE Quality Measurement and Improvement \(VQB5\) webpage](#). Questions regarding VQB5 can be directed to Kris Meyers, Associate Director of Quality Measurement and Improvement, by email at Kris.Meyers@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/KM/lh