Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #159-21

DATE: June 11, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: **VKRP Pre-K Expansion to VPI for 2021-2022**

[Fall 2020 results of the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)](#) indicate 45 percent of Virginia's kindergarteners entered kindergarten not ready in one or more of the four critical areas of school readiness: literacy, mathematics, self-regulation and social skills. Recognizing children's acquisition of school readiness skills begins well before kindergarten, the Virginia General Assembly approved funding for the initial implementation of VKRP in publicly supported prekindergarten programs in 2021 ([Budget Item 137](#)) to better understand and support school readiness for preschool aged children. VKRP data can help divisions determine where resources are needed the most and guide professional development decisions. VKRP also supports the state's goal to achieve education equity by improving the quality and availability of early childhood education to Virginia's youngest learners.

VKRP for Pre-K Implementation Guidance (2021-2022)

Beginning Fall 2021, **all four-year-old students enrolled in VPI classrooms must be administered VKRP assessments (EMAS and CBRS) in the fall and the spring of the year.** This requirement also applies to students that are enrolled in a VPI classroom, but who may not be funded through VPI state dollars (e.g., ECSE students; locally funded student in a classroom that is supported by VPI; VPI students enrolled in a community-provider setting) and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) Mixed Delivery Classrooms. A more detailed

overview of VKRP and requirements, VKRP assessments and data, and how to prepare to administer VKRP is included in the VKRP FAQs document.

Pre-K Onboarding - Survey Due by July 1

All VPI division/program representatives must complete the VKRP Pre-K Onboarding Survey by July 1, 2021. This information was shared at the VPI Coordinators meeting on May 3, along with information related to the 2021-2022 VKRP and PALS K and Pre-K Calendar.

Important Note: If a VPI division contact has **not** been identified or a replacement has been named, please contact vkrp@virginia.edu. Training information will be directly communicated via the VKRP Office and having a stable point of contact will be essential for future coordination.

Training

The VKRP Outreach Team will coordinate with VKRP and VPI division contacts to schedule regional training for trainers from divisions and programs during July and August. Divisions/programs may also follow up with requests for tailored training offerings. Online training modules for teachers will be available beginning August 2021.

For more information

Visit vkrponline.org to learn more about VKRP. Contact Wanda Weaver, VKRP Director of Outreach and Support, at vkrp@virginia.edu or by telephone at (866) 301-8278 ext. 1 for more information about Pre-K Onboarding and Training or Tamilah.Richardson@doe.virginia.gov at (804) 225-4781 for general VKRP pre-K implementation inquiries.

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