

**VQB5  
IMPROVEMENT PARTNER  
WEBINAR**

**August 30, 2023**



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# WELCOME PD PROVIDERS!

**POLL - Which of the following best describes your professional development role/s in Virginia's early childhood system? (*select all that apply*)**

- Coordinator/Administrator
- Trainer/Workshop Presenter
- Mentor/Coach
- Facilitator
- Consultant
- Technical Assistance Provider/Specialist
- Higher Education Faculty/Professor
- Evaluator/Researcher
- Other PD Role (*tell us more in the follow up survey!*)

# OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

## **Objectives: As a result of this presentation, Improvement Partners will:**

- 1) Increase understanding about how Improvement Partners can support VQB5 programs with required participation during the 2023-2024 year.
- 2) Receive and use VQB5 data to inform improvement efforts.
- 3) Have an opportunity to reflect on improvement efforts.
- 4) Share feedback with VDOE about improvement supports.

## **Agenda:**

- Goals and Vision for the Unified VQB5 System
- VQB5 Required Participation Activities 2023-2024
- Using CLASS Data to Inform Improvement Efforts
  - Partner Reflection Activity
- Improvement Partner Spotlight - AEII
- Next Steps and Q&A

# OUR SHARED VISION

**We envision a Virginia where *all* children have the opportunity to enter school ready.**

- All families have affordable access to and support to choose the option that meets their unique needs.
- All early childhood programs that take public funds benefit from measurement and supports for improvement, ensuring quality choices are available for all families.
- Programs are rewarded for continual improvement and educators are adequately compensated.
- Overall Virginia's early childhood system is unified, data-driven and resource-effective so families can work, go to school or pursue employment and children have every opportunity to be successful.



***Four out of ten Virginia children enter school without the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed. (VKRP fall 2022)***

# VQB5 THEORY OF CHANGE

To prepare all children for kindergarten, Virginia's early childhood system must ensure they have access to quality teaching and learning experiences that meet their unique needs.

Working together, through VQB5, Virginia 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.

# VQB5: UNIFIED MEASUREMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

**In response to state law, the Virginia Board of Education has established a unified measurement and improvement system (VQB5), for all publicly-funded birth-to-five early childhood programs.**

- The VDOE piloted and then scaled VQB5, working with multiple stakeholders and communities to develop the new system.
- VQB5 included two Practice Years.
- This fall, all publicly-funded birth-to-five programs are required to participate in VQB5, with the first quality ratings published in fall of 2024.
- This includes ~3,600 public schools, child care, and family day home programs with ~12,000 "classrooms."

**The 2023-2024 VQB5 Guidelines received a full endorsement from the Early Childhood Advisory Committee last spring and were approved by the Board on June 15, 2023.**

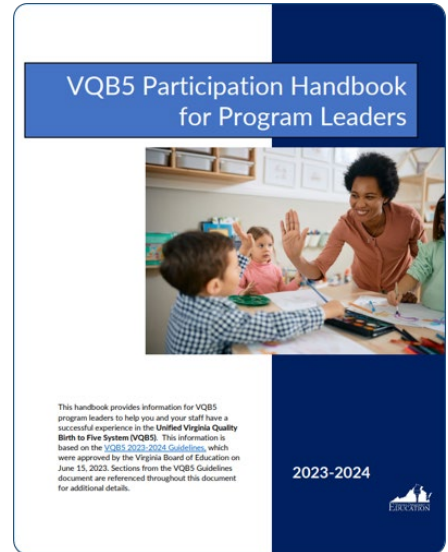
# 2023-2024 VQB5 Required Participation Activities

# VQB5 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

**To meet the participation requirements in the legislation, all publicly-funded programs are required to complete the following three activities each year.**

- 1) Sites must complete the registration process between August 15-**October 3** in [LinkB5](#), the VQB5 data portal.
  - Sites enter information about their optional use of a VDOE-approved curriculum during registration.
  - Ready Regions are supporting programs with the registration process.
- 2) Every eligible classroom must complete two local CLASS® observations, one in the fall and one in the spring, with scores entered in LinkB5.
- 3) In addition to the two local CLASS® observations coordinated by Ready Regions, all participating sites must participate in external CLASS® observations for each age-level served, between August 15 and May 31.

[VQB5 Participation Handbook for Program Leaders and Participation Overview for Program Leaders Video \(16 min\)](#)





# VQB5 PARTICIPATION BENEFITS

- ❖ **Strengthened Quality:** Educators and leaders will receive individualized feedback and support.
- ❖ **Training and Support:** Educators and leaders will have access to supports, training, and resources to help improve interactions and access to curriculum.
- ❖ **Public Recognition:** Quality profiles will be posted publicly starting in the fall of 2024. All programs will receive a certificate.
- ❖ **Financial Recognition for Child Care and Family Day Home Teachers:** To assist with providing competitive compensation, eligible educators will receive up to **\$3,000** through [RecognizeB5](#).



# VQB5 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	
<p>Programs complete registration and prepare for fall CLASS observations.</p>	<p>Local <b>CLASS</b> observations and <b>curriculum</b> use information for every classroom entered in LinkB5 and used to guide improvement.</p>	<p>Local <b>CLASS</b> observations for every classroom are entered in LinkB5 and used to measure growth.</p> <p><b>Curriculum</b> use information can be updated if needed.</p>	<p>Data Verification occurs at the end of July to confirm quality profile information.</p> <p>Programs complete registration and prepare for fall CLASS observations</p>	
<p><b>Prepare</b></p>		<p><b>Measurement, Feedback, and Support</b></p>		<p><b>Reflect &amp; Prepare</b></p>

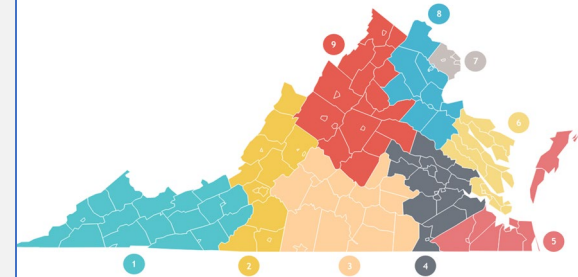
*External CLASS observations are also used throughout the year at every site to gather consistency information, support local observers, and provide additional feedback.*

# VQB5 COORDINATION

Ready Regions are responsible for the coordination, accountability, and family engagement for early childhood programs. **This includes coordinating VQB5 measurement and improvement activities.**

## What does this mean for Improvement Partners?

- Ready Regions lead agencies work with improvement partners to ensure there are PD options available to the VQB5 programs in their region.
- Improvement Supports are prioritized for publicly-funded programs and in response to needs identified in VQB5 measurements.
- VDOE is working to ensure there is a more unified and aligned approach across all state- and federally-funded quality improvement efforts, including ensuring supports are available consistently across Ready Regions.



[Ready Regions Website](#)

# POLL

Have you made a connection with at least one Ready Region?

- Yes
- Not Yet

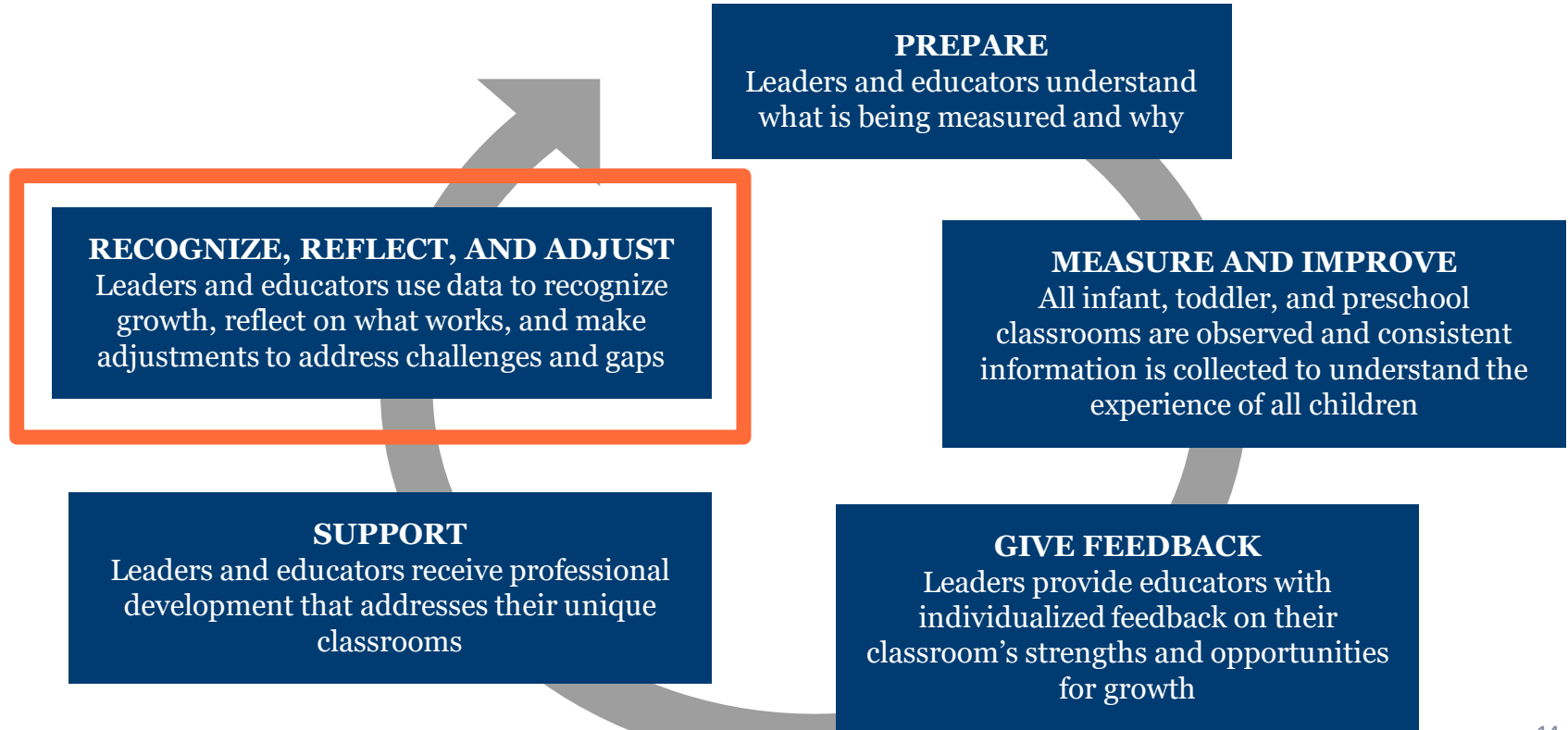
If Yes, which Ready Region/s have you connected with? (select all that apply)

- RR 1 – Southwest
- RR 2 – West
- RR 3 – Southside
- RR 4 – Central
- RR 5 – Southeastern
- RR 6 – Chesapeake Bay
- RR 7 – Capital Area
- RR 8 – North Central
- RR 9 – Blue Ridge

If you'd like assistance making a connection with Ready Regions, please reach out to the VQB5 team – [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov)

# Using VQB5 Data to Inform Improvement Efforts

# CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



# TYPES OF CLASS OBSERVATIONS IN VQB5

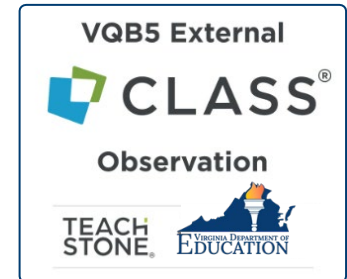
See the [Overview of CLASS Observations in VQB5](#)  
for more information.

## Local Observations



**READY**  
REGIONS

## External Observations



# LOCAL AND EXTERNAL OBSERVATIONS IN VQB5

## UPDATE: PRACTICE YEAR 2

<b>2022-2023</b>	Local Observations	External Observations
Number of Observations by Age-Level		
Pre-K	9,222	2,321
Toddler	4,379	1,080
Infant	1,998	563
Number of Observations by Site Type		
Public School	4,366	1,080
Affiliated Center	2,497	2,362
Stand-Alone Center	7,654	
Family Day Home	1,082	522
<b>Total Classroom Observations</b>	<b>15,599</b>	<b>3,964</b>

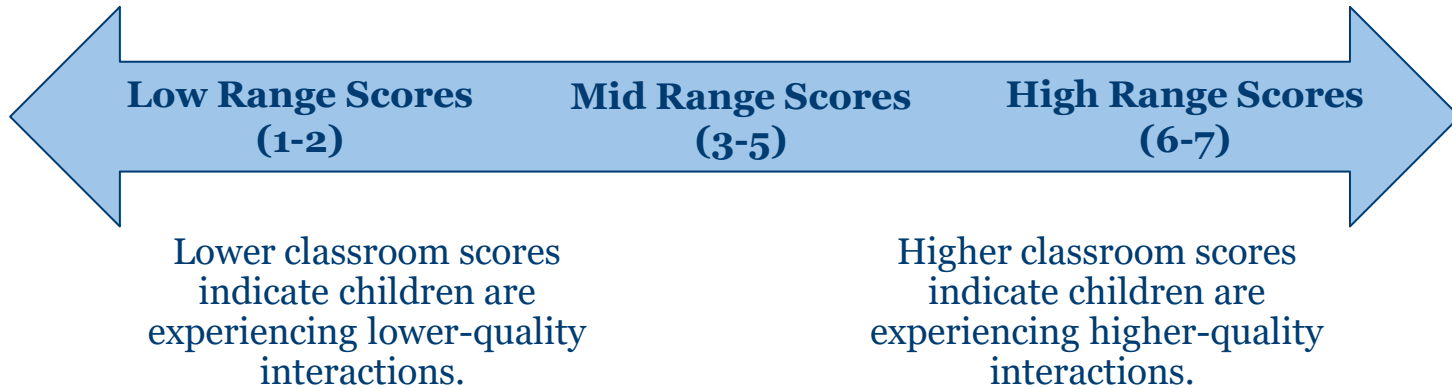
Over  
**19,500**  
 observations  
 completed  
 last year and  
 feedback  
 shared!



# USING CLASS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT CHILDREN ARE EXPERIENCING

In VQB5, CLASS observations happen in the **fall** and then again in the **spring** for every classroom.

- This provides teachers with an opportunity to recognize growth and provides program leaders with a complete reflection of what children are experiencing throughout the year.



# PRACTICE YEAR 2 EXTERNAL CLASS OBSERVATION AVERAGES (2022-2023)

During VQB5 Practice Year 2 (2022-2023), 3,964 classrooms received an external observation conducted by [Teachstone's External Observation Team](#). This represented approximately 50% of all participating classrooms.

CLASS Tool	PY2 Average	PY2 Range
<b>Infant CLASS</b> (n=563 classrooms)	4.88	2.13-6.81
<b>Toddler CLASS</b> (n= 1,080 classrooms)	4.66	1.47-6.66
<b>Pre-K CLASS</b> (n=2,321 classrooms)	4.79	2.23-6.53
<b>Total CLASS (all ages)</b> (n=3,964)	<b>4.78</b>	<b>1.47-6.81</b>

*Detailed information about [statewide Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K CLASS average scores](#) from 2022-2023 external observations are available on the [VQB5 Website](#).*

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The average CLASS score tells us that in general, young children in Virginia are sometimes experiencing quality interactions.

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CLASS Tool	PY2 Average	PY2 Range
<b>Infant CLASS</b> (n=563 classrooms)	<b>CLASS ranges show us that there is a lot of variation in what children are experiencing in birth-to-five programs across Virginia.</b>	2.13-6.81
<b>Toddler CLASS</b> (n= 1,080 classrooms)		1.47-6.66
<b>Pre-K CLASS</b> (n=2,321 classrooms)		2.23-6.53
<b>Total CLASS (all ages)</b> (n=3,964)		<b>1.47-6.81</b>

# VQB5 EXTERNAL OBSERVATIONS

## INFANT CLASS DIMENSION RESULTS

**During Practice Year 2 (2022-2023), 563 infant classrooms received an external observation.**

<b>Infant CLASS Dimensions</b>	<b>Average</b>
Relational Climate	5.71
Teacher Sensitivity	5.76
Facilitated Exploration	4.23
Early Language Support	3.83
<b>Responsive Caregiving Domain</b>	<b>4.88</b>

**These Infant CLASS scores indicate that on average, infant classrooms in Virginia need the most support with Early Language Support.**

# VQB5 EXTERNAL OBSERVATIONS TODDLER CLASS DOMAIN RESULTS

**During Practice Year 2 (2022-2023), 1,080 toddler classrooms received an external observation.**

<b>Toddler CLASS Domains and Total CLASS Score</b>	<b>Average</b>
Emotional and Behavioral Support Domain	5.57
Engaged Support for Learning Domain	3.15
<b>Toddler Total CLASS Score</b>	<b>4.66</b>

**These Toddler CLASS scores indicate that on average, toddler classrooms in Virginia need more support with Engaged Support for Learning.**

# VQB5 EXTERNAL OBSERVATIONS PRE-K CLASS DOMAIN RESULTS

**During Practice Year 2 (2022-2023), 2,321 Pre-K classrooms received an external observation.**

<b>Pre-K CLASS Domains and Total CLASS Score</b>	<b>Average</b>
Emotional Support Domain	5.86
Classroom Organization Domain	5.49
Instructional Support Domain	2.65
<b>Pre-K Total CLASS Score</b>	<b>4.79</b>

**These Pre-K CLASS scores indicate that on average, preschool classrooms in Virginia need more support with Instructional Support.**

*Pre-K CLASS Tool Summary ([English](#)/[Spanish](#))*

# ACTIVITY/REFLECTION

## Padlet Link

- **Reflect** - What are you already doing that will continue to help infant, toddler, and/or preschool teachers improve the quality of their interactions?
- **Adjust** - Using the data shared, what might you do differently in the upcoming year to help infant, toddler, and/or preschool teachers improve the quality of their interactions?



# MORE CLASS INFORMATION

**To ensure consistency, quality, and credibility of VQB5 quality ratings, VDOE will also....**

- Use external observations to address unusual scoring patterns, discrepancies, and missing data.
- Compare all local and external observations that are completed in the same classroom during the same fall or spring observation window.
- Use a score replacement protocol to address comparable observations with significantly different scores.
- Address concerns about any local or external CLASS results through a formal review process.



# CURRICULUM USE IN VQB5



CURRICULUM IS A KEY  
INGREDIENT TO HELPING  
TEACHERS IMPROVE THEIR  
INTERACTIONS

The choice to use an approved 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 an approved curriculum as part of VQB5 may:

- 1) Use one of the 60+ approved early childhood curriculum available **or**
- 2) Request to have their curriculum of choice reviewed for possible approval.

**Sites can update curriculum use information in LinkB5 classroom profiles through May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

*\*VQB5 does not require the use of any curriculum.*

# Improvement Partner Spotlight

# VDOE IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS

**The following list includes the 2023-2024 quality improvement partners that the VDOE works with and provides funding arrangements through either federal- or state-funding sources.**

- Virginia Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)
- **Advancing Effective Interactions and Instruction (AEII)**
- Training and Technical Assistance Centers (TTAC)
- VCU Autism Center for Excellence Early Childhood
- STREAMin3 Curriculum Model and PD Support
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC)
- Virginia Head Start Association (VHSA)
- VCU - Head Start Statewide Needs Assessment
- Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program
- Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA)
- PD Essentials - VCU
- Early Educator Fast Track Initiative
- Early Childhood Special Education Consortium
- Early Learning Standards Microcredential
- Wolf Trap ECE STEM Through the Arts
- Literacy Lab
- Better Kid Care-Penn State Extension
- Child Care Aware of Virginia (Child Care Resource and Referral- CCR&R)

*A full overview of all VQB5 Improvement Partners and related supports is available in the [VQB5 Improvement Supports Overview](#) document on the VQB5 Webpage.*

# AEII

<b>Improvement Partner</b>	<b>Primary Purpose</b>	<b>Eligible Participants</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<a href="#"><u>Advancing Effective Interactions and Instruction</u></a> (AEII)	<p>Assist VQB5 programs (birth-to-five) in using data to improve the quality of teacher-child interactions, curriculum and professional development, focusing particularly on classrooms with demonstrated need.</p> <p>Coaching services targeted to VQB5 sites with the lowest CLASS scores.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VQB5 Programs</li></ul>	Free for VQB5 programs

# ADVANCING EFFECTIVE INTERACTIONS & INSTRUCTION (AEII) COACHING



# SNAPSHOT OF TEACHER'S GROWTH OF TEACHING PRACTICES

- ❖ Ms. Monica is a **Family Day Home Provider/Preschool Teacher** in RR Capital Area.
- ❖ She is a highly engaged teacher/leader serving 3-5 year olds.
- ❖ She selected the **Extended** Coaching Track (~12 weeks).
- ❖ Ms. Monica selected the following **SEL Topics**:
  - *Supporting Children's Behaviors*  
CLASS® aligned: (PC) (TS) (RSP) (BM) (ILF) (QF) (LM)
  - *Promoting Social Problem-Solving*  
CLASS® aligned: (PC)(TS) (CD) (RSP) (BM) (ILF) (QF) (LM)
  - *Developing Sense of Self and Empathy*  
CLASS® aligned: (PC) (TS) (CD) (RSP) (ILF) (LM)





## FIRST...

As you look back/think about your Action Plans, what was accomplished through setting your goals and action steps?

## NEXT...

Choose one question below and share your thoughts.

What effect did this work have on the children in your classroom?

What have you continued to think about? What is sticking with you? Why?

How did you grow through AEI Coaching?





# TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AEII

- [AEIionline.org](https://aeiionline.org)
- [Aeii@virginia.edu](mailto:Aeii@virginia.edu)
- **Updates to Services for the 2023-2024 Year:**
  - ***Access to Teachers' CLASS® Scores***
    - Coaches will use teachers' scores to guide the coaching focus and target their interaction needs
    - AEII will then track growth & suggest next steps
  - ***Pilot Virtual Leader Consultation***
    - AEII will support leaders' use of CLASS® data and effective feedback for program improvement through piloting Leader Consultation sessions with select programs
  - ***Pilot In-Person Coaching***
    - AEII will pilot in-person services with select teachers in partnership with Ready Region Southeastern

# Next Steps

# PRACTICE YEAR 2 QUALITY PROFILES

Sites who participated in Practice Year 2 will receive their [practice year quality profile](#) privately in **September**. These profiles will include:

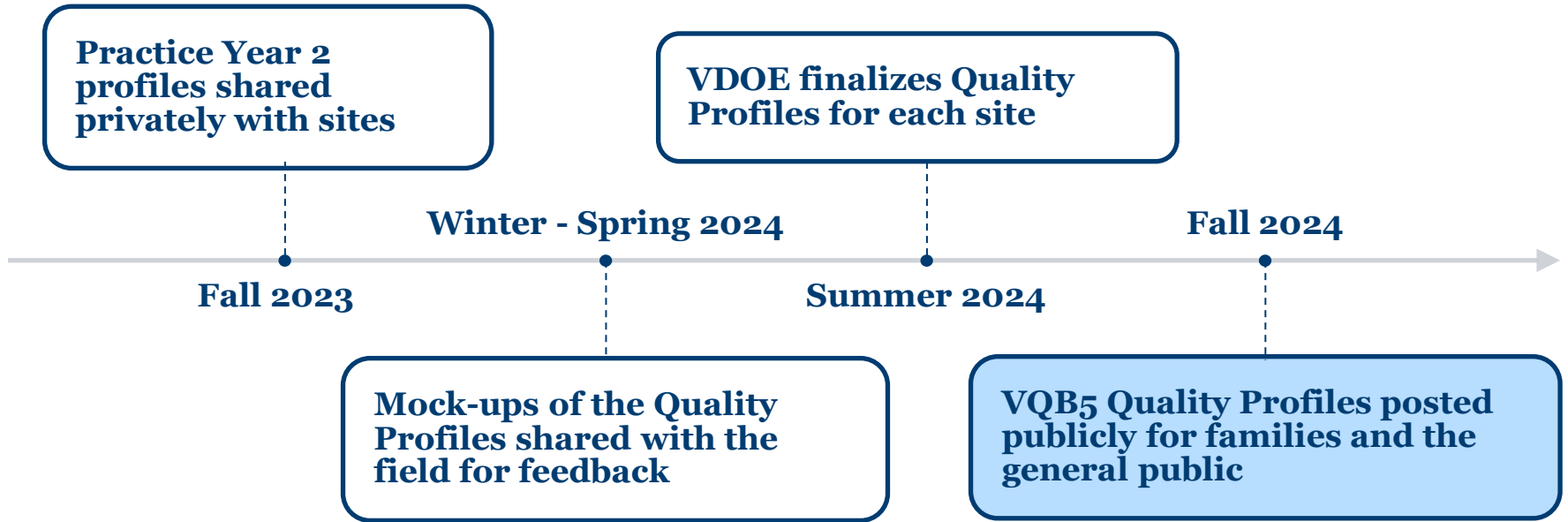
- Site Performance on VQB5 Measurements
- Site Information from LinkB5 Profiles
- Information to Help Understand New Score Replacement Protocol
- Profile Feedback Survey

Sites who receive a Needs Support Practice Rating will have the opportunity to participate in Site Improvement Planning facilitated by the VDOE.

Results from VQB5 Interactions and Curriculum measurements will also be used to prioritize sites and classrooms for individualized support from state coaching partners.

# VQB5 QUALITY PROFILE DEVELOPMENT

All publicly-funded programs will receive an annual VQB5 Quality Profile which will include the quality rating as well as other topics of interest to families and the general public.



# HOW CAN IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS HELP SUPPORT A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN VQB5?

**To support publicly-funded programs with required VQB5 activities this year, improvement partners can help by...**

- Reminding programs that they must complete registration by October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Connecting with [Ready Regions](#) and [other improvement partners](#).
- Sharing information and resources from the [VQB5 website page](#).
- Encouraging programs to sign up for the [Readiness Connections weekly updates](#).
- Sending questions to [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov).

# THANK YOU

- Please share your thoughts about today's webinar via our webinar survey (or) by emailing [VQB5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:VQB5@doe.virginia.gov)
- Our next quarterly Improvement Partner webinar will be held in November.
- Questions? Email [VQB5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:VQB5@doe.virginia.gov)



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# Appendix

# TYPES OF VQB<sub>5</sub> CLASS<sup>®</sup> OBSERVATIONS

There are two types of CLASS<sup>®</sup> observations conducted in [VQB<sub>5</sub>](#): local and external observations. These observations have different purposes and frequencies during the annual measurement and improvement cycle as described below.

VQB <sub>5</sub>	LOCAL OBSERVATIONS	EXTERNAL OBSERVATIONS
<b>Purpose</b>	Used to gather classroom-level information about the quality of teacher-child interactions and provide individualized feedback.	Used to gather information about the accuracy and consistency of local observations for the state, and to provide an additional source of feedback.
<b>Definition</b>	Coordinated and scheduled at the local level through <a href="#">Ready Regions</a> , with results recorded in LinkB <sub>5</sub> .	Coordinated, scheduled, and recorded statewide by <a href="#">Teachstone's External Observation Team</a> .
<b>Annual Cycle</b>	All birth-to-five classrooms will get two local observations each year. One in the fall and one in the spring.	Only some birth-to-five classrooms will get an external observation. All sites will receive an external observation in at least one classroom for each age-level.



# ADDITIONAL CLASS SCORE INFORMATION

Public information about [statewide Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K CLASS average scores](#) from VQB5 Practice Year 2 (2022-2023) are available on the VQB5 Website. This information will be updated publicly on an annual basis.

A graphic with a white background and a dark blue border. It features a silhouette of the state of Virginia in the background. Overlaid on the silhouette is a white torch. The text is in dark blue. At the top left, it says "Virginia CLASS® Data Averages" in a bold serif font. Below that, it says "PUBLICLY AVAILABLE JULY 2023" in a smaller, all-caps serif font. At the bottom, it says "VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" in a bold, all-caps sans-serif font. A small number "1" is visible in the bottom right corner of the graphic.

**Virginia CLASS® Data  
Averages**  
PUBLICLY AVAILABLE JULY 2023

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

*Connect with your  
Ready Region for  
more information  
on regional  
alignment and  
score replacement.*

# IMPROVEMENT RESOURCES

<b>Resource/Strategy</b>	<b>Example/More Info</b>
CLASS Dimension Guide	<a href="#">Dimension Guides</a> available online <u>or</u> from Ready Regions
Informal "Walk-Throughs" (or) "Focused Observations"	<a href="#">Informal Observation form and instructions</a>
Teacher Self-Assessments	<a href="#">Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K Teacher Self-Assessments</a>
Peer-to-Peer Learning	<a href="#">Teacher-Tips</a> and <a href="#">Teaching With CLASS Podcasts</a>
Video Exemplars	<a href="#">LA-Piccard Center CLASS Video Library</a>
Curriculum and CLASS Connections	<a href="#">VDOE CLASS and Curriculum Connections</a>
Birth-to-Five Core Skill Activities, Strategies, and Book Collections	<a href="#">Early Childhood Education (ECE) Resource Hub</a>

# VQB5 READY REGIONS LEAD AGENCIES

<b>Southwest</b>	United Way of Southwest Virginia
<b>West</b>	United Way of Roanoke Valley
<b>Southside</b>	Center for Early Success
<b>Central</b>	Thrive Birth to Five
<b>Southeastern</b>	Minus 9 to 5, Eastern Virginia Medical School
<b>Chesapeake Bay</b>	FirstSpark (formerly Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula)
<b>Capital Area</b>	Fairfax County Office for Children
<b>North Central</b>	Foundation First (formerly Smart Beginnings Rappahannock Area)
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	United Way of Greater Charlottesville

\*\*See [Ready Regions Contact List](#) for County/City Breakdown and contact information

# WORKFORCE SUPPORTS: VIRGINIA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY EDUCATORS

**Virginia has two programs available to support early educators taking college-level courses.**

## **Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program ([VCCPSP](#))**

- Provides scholarships for up to eight (8) undergraduate courses or a lifetime award of \$4,020 (effective March 15, 2022) for early educators working with children from birth through age 12 (or for those wanting to enter the field of early education).
- Provides scholarships for tuition and technology fees for up to two (2) approved undergraduate courses per semester (fall, spring, summer) at Virginia Community Colleges or \$400 per approved undergraduate courses at a four-year college/university in Virginia.

## **Project Pathfinders Funding Program**

- Funding for tuition, fees, and textbooks for up to two (2) courses per semester is available to early childhood professionals who are currently employed working with children ages infant through Pre-K and want to complete a certificate or degree in early childhood development at a Virginia community college or four-year college/university.
- Applicants are required to apply for the VCCPSP prior to receiving funds from [Project Pathfinders](#).