

### **WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA KINDERGARTEN READINESS PROGRAM (VKRP)?**

Faculty and researchers at the University of Virginia conducted an examination of a representative sample of Virginia's children entering kindergarten in 2014 and found that 34% arrive unprepared in one or more critical learning domains (literacy, math, self-regulation, and social skills). These results confirmed that Virginia teachers need information beyond the already-assessed literacy skills to meet the instructional needs of entering students. These results were shared with the Virginia State Legislature and the statewide implementation of VKRP began.

The VKRP expands the assessment of children at kindergarten entry to include the school readiness domains of math, social skills, and self-regulation. These assessments are combined with assessments of children's literacy skills that are already assessed using the existing Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) test.

### **WHAT DOES THE NEW LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAY ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE VKRP?**

The Virginia General Assembly legislation requires all kindergarten students be assessed using the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) by the end of the 2019-2020 school-year, and annually thereafter ([HB5002, Item 128, H.](#)). The VKRP Team will continue development and implementation of a spring assessment as well as continuing to offer professional development sessions on how to effectively use VKRP data to inform instruction. With the funding appropriated over two years, VDOE will coordinate with school divisions and the VKRP Team to efficiently onboard divisions for statewide use of the multi-dimensional assessments across the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years.

### **WILL PARTICIPATING IN VKRP REQUIRE ANY COSTS FROM SCHOOL DIVISIONS?**

No. UVA researchers will come to each school division, train teachers and other personnel, and provide all of the assessment materials without any cost to your division. Divisions should select personnel to be trained as a VKRP Trainer.

### **WHAT ASSESSMENTS ARE UTILIZED?**

Students' mathematics skills are assessed using a teacher-administered direct assessment and their self-regulation and social skills are assessed using an observational rating scale completed by teachers.

The Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS), also known as The Party, is a direct assessment of early math skills. Current analytic data indicates on average The Party takes 20 minutes per student. The assessment is administered via an online interface, and while it is preferred that teachers administer the measure in one sitting, the assessment is designed so that teachers may break from the assessment at any point without losing data.

Social skills and self-regulation skills are measured using the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS). The CBRS is programmed into an online form and is completed after observing students across several weeks. Generally, teachers need 1–3 minutes to complete the rating scale per student.

### **WHEN IS THE VKRP ASSESSMENT WINDOW?**

It is recommended that teachers conduct the math assessments and complete the social skills and self-regulation ratings in the 2-3 weeks **prior** to the PALS assessments. Conducting the VKRP as close in time as possible to the PALS assessments allows for teachers and administrators to compare children’s skills across the readiness domains of literacy, math, social skills, and self-regulation. VKRP will work with divisions who may need to schedule an alternate window.

### **WHERE WILL TEACHERS ACCESS THE ONLINE ASSESSMENTS AND ENTER STUDENT DATA?**

Teachers will be able to access PALS assessments as well as The Party and CBRS via PALS, using their PALS login information. Additionally, student roster data will be transferred from the PALS database to the Party and CBRS applications, so teachers will only need to enter student roster data one time. It is important to note that since the VKRP assessments pull roster info from PALS, teachers may need to enter their roster information into the PALS site earlier than usual.

### **WHO SHOULD TEACHERS CONTACT IF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED DURING THEIR VKRP ASSESSMENT WINDOW?**

Within the online application, teachers have access to a chat feature staffed by the VKRP Team at UVA. Teachers can also contact the VKRP Team using the contact information below. Teachers should **not** contact PALS concerning questions about the VKRP assessments.

### **ARE THERE SUPPORTS FOR HELPING TEACHERS USE THE DATA AND TO GUIDE INSTRUCTION?**

The VKRP provides integrated and specific reports (at the student, classroom, school, and division levels), professional development on data use, as well as instructional resources to guide classroom practice based upon student data.

### **CONTACT US:**

 (866) 301-8278, ext. 1

 [vkrp@virginia.edu](mailto:vkrp@virginia.edu)