

CAN TEACHERS GIVE THE ASSESSMENTS EARLIER THAN 2 WEEKS BEFORE PALS?

Teachers should conduct the math assessments and complete the social skills and self-regulation ratings as close in time as possible to the PALS-K assessments. This allows for teachers and administrators to compare students' skills across the readiness domains of literacy, math, social skills, and self-regulation. For example, say a teacher conducted the math assessments during Week 2 of instruction but did not complete the PALS-K assessments until Week 7 of instruction. Students may be more likely to look "not ready" in math compared to literacy, because the students were assessed very early in the year for math and significantly later in the year for literacy.

WILL PARTICIPATING IN VKRP THIS YEAR REQUIRE ANY COSTS FROM OUR DIVISION?

No. UVA researchers will provide training and all of the assessment materials without any cost to your division.

ARE THE ASSESSMENTS TIMED? WILL TEACHERS BE ABLE TO GIVE STUDENTS BREAKS DURING TEST ADMINISTRATION IF NECESSARY?

None of the assessments are timed. While it is preferred that teachers administer the math measure (EMAS) in one sitting, they may take a break after the first module and their data will be saved. Additionally, the assessment is designed so that in the event of unexpected interruptions, teachers may break from the assessment at any point without losing data. The Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS) is a rating scale measure and should be completed in one sitting. Teachers will complete both the EMAS and the CBRS on all their kindergarten students within a 2-week window of time.

ARE THE ASSESSMENTS ADMINISTERED USING PAPER AND PENCIL, OR ARE THEY AVAILABLE IN AN ELECTRONIC FORMAT?

All assessments are administered electronically. When administering the math assessment (EMAS), students respond to paper stimuli, and teachers enter students' responses directly into an online application. Teachers will respond to items on the CBRS via an electronic form.

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



We have worked closely with PALS in developing our online system. Teachers will be able to access their PALS assessments as well as the EMAS and CBRS via the PALS K-3 website, using their PALS login information. Additionally, student roster data will be transferred from the PALS database to the EMAS 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 will take place in the 2 weeks **prior** to the PALS-K assessments, participating teachers may need to enter their roster information into the PALS site earlier than usual this fall.

HAVE ANY CHANGES BEEN MADE TO THE ASSESSMENTS SINCE FALL OF 2016?

The social-emotional assessment (CBRS) has not been changed. The math assessment, the EMAS (formerly called the Birthday Party) is being revised to optimize system processing and streamline the assessment. However, the items on the assessment will remain the same. We have also programmed an alternate script that is more culturally sensitive to families who do not celebrate birthdays. There is also an optional Spanish version of the EMAS.

WHO SHOULD TEACHERS CONTACT IF THEY NEED ASSISTANCE DURING THEIR VKRP ASSESSMENT WINDOW?

While in the online application, teachers have access to an online-chat feature staffed by the VKRP team at UVA. Teachers can also contact the VKRP team using the contact information below. Note that teachers should **not** contact PALS concerning questions about the VKRP assessments.

CONTACT US:  (866) 301-8278, ext. 1  vkrp@virginia.edu