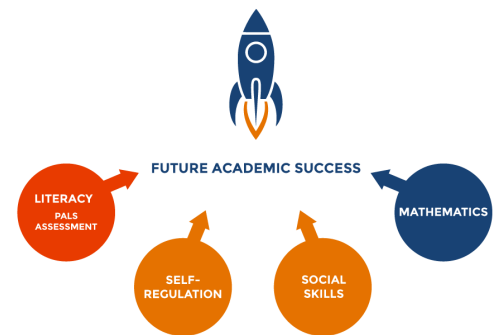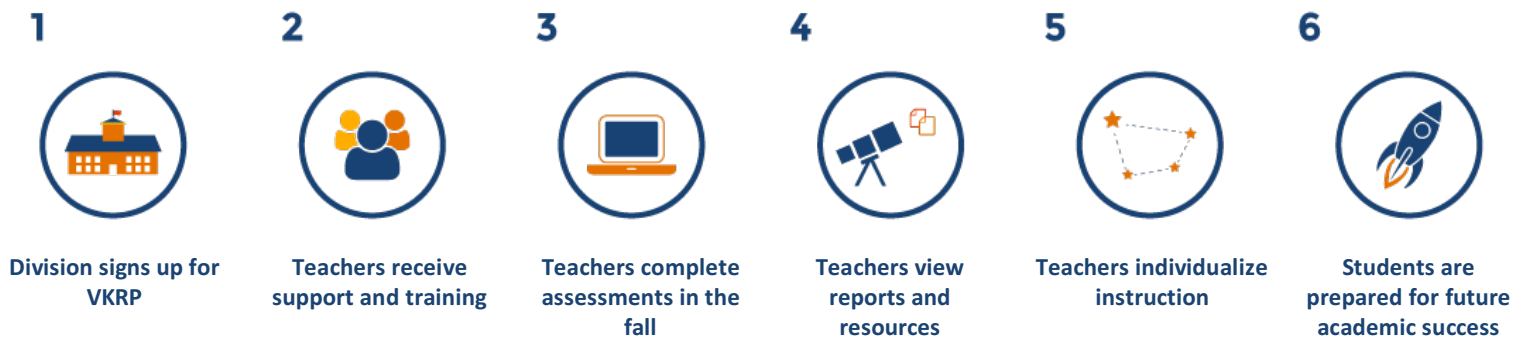## What is VKRP?

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), based at The University of Virginia, expands the assessment of children entering kindergarten beyond literacy, to include the domains of math, self-regulation, and social skills, to show a more comprehensive picture of kindergarteners' readiness. In addition to assessments, VKRP also provides integrated performance reports of kindergarten entry-skills and recommended resources at the student and classroom levels. One-third of all school divisions in Virginia are now participating in VKRP. Your division can sign on now to participate.

Why Was VKRP Introduced?

In 2014, faculty and researchers at the University of Virginia found that 34% of Virginia's children entering kindergarten arrive unprepared in one or more critical learning domains (literacy, math, self-regulation, and social skills). These results confirmed that Virginia teachers need information on students' skills beyond literacy, which is already assessed with the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), in order to meet the instructional needs of entering students. These results were shared with the Virginia State Legislature, and the statewide implementation of VKRP began.

How Does VKRP Work?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Division signs up for VKRP	Teachers receive support and training	Teachers complete assessments in the fall	Teachers view reports and resources	Teachers individualize instruction	Students are prepared for future academic success

After your district joins VKRP, teachers receive hands-on training before the assessments begin. Teachers complete the math, self-regulation, and social skills assessments in the two weeks prior to the school's PALS assessment window. Teacher-oriented reports are then available at both the student-level and classroom-level, and link directly to recommended resources based on student data. The assessments, reports, and resources allow the teacher to differentiate instruction.

What Assessments Does VKRP Use?

Early math skills are directly assessed by the Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS). This assessment takes approximately 20 minutes per student to complete. Self-regulation and social skills are measured using the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS). The rating scale takes roughly 2 minutes per student and can be completed outside of instructional time.

How Do PALS and VKRP Work Together?

VKRP and PALS work in concert to provide a more comprehensive picture of kindergarten readiness. PALS assesses literacy skills, whereas VKRP assesses math, self-regulation, and social skills. All VKRP assessments and resources are accessible to participating divisions via the PALS website, using an existing PALS login. Teachers administer PALS-K as usual to assess students' literacy skills, and they also complete the VKRP assessments as described above.

What is the Commitment for Teachers and Administrators?
Teachers are asked to:
- Attend an instructional training on the VKRP,
- Complete the assessments in the fall,
- View and use reports and resources, and
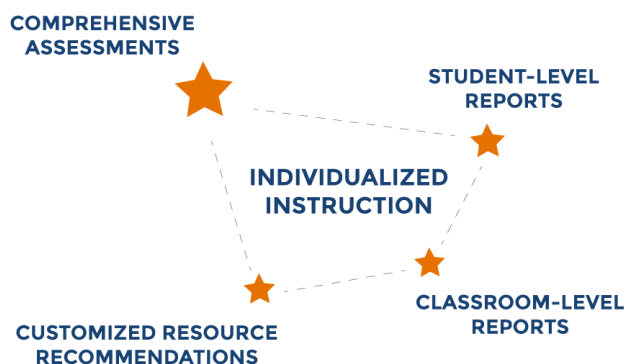- Provide feedback on usability of VKRP.

School-level and division-level administrators are asked to provide support to teachers for the administration of the measures and also to give feedback on the components of the VKRP system.

What Training Will Our Teachers Receive?
Teachers will receive a hands-on overview of the different VKRP components, including the online application, measures, performance reports, and linked instructional resources.

How Will VKRP Help Our Teachers Differentiate Instruction?
Teachers have access to student-level and classroom-level reports on all 4 critical domains – literacy, math, self-regulation, and social skills, which clearly show performance patterns within their class. Reports will include links to recommended instructional resources based on student and classroom performance, so that teachers can easily use the data to help inform their practice and address the needs of their students.

Previous participants have noted that:
- Administering the math assessment with their students was as helpful as receiving the data reports.
- The CBRS assessment involves careful observation of students' self-regulation and social skills, which provided great insights to student behavior.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS

STUDENT-LEVEL REPORTS

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

CUSTOMIZED RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

CLASSROOM-LEVEL REPORTS

How Can Our School System Use VKRP Data?
Schools and divisions have access to their own reports via the PALS website. These reports can help administrators see the variability of performance in each domain across classrooms and schools, and identify areas for intervention. UVA is willing to work with divisions to create specialized reports if needed.

Previous participating divisions have reported using the data to:
- Get an overall picture of instructional needs within their schools and division, and
- Help them plan for instruction and distribution of resources.

How Can Our School System Participate in VKRP?
To learn more about the VKRP and to discuss participation, please contact us at:

📞 **(866) 301-8278, ext. 1**

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