

Migration of VALLSS, VKRP, and LinkB5 into Virginia Connects for Kids (VAConnects) – May 2025

Virginia Connects for Kids (VAConnects) is an integrated data system that brings together three state data collection systems, Virginia Language & Literacy Screening System (VALLSS), the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), and LinkB5. VAConnects is managed by the University of Virginia's School of Education and Human Development and funded by the Virginia Department of Education.

VAConnects was launched in the 2024-2025 academic year; educators in every division have been using VAConnects for data entry and reporting for VALLSS. Next academic year (2025-2026) the system will expand to include VKRP and LinkB5 in one platform with a one-stop log-in for all three systems.

The purposes of this memo are to: 1) Describe VAConnects and its goals; 2) Share key information; and 3) Describe next steps related to training, support, and implementation of VAConnects.

Initiatives Integrated into VA Connects

VAConnects will serve as the integrated platform for:

1. VALLSS: PreK, VALLSS: K-3, and VALLSS: 4-8, created by Virginia Literacy Partnerships, provide language and literacy screening and resources.
2. VKRP (Pre-K through K) provides assessments of mathematics, self-regulation, social skills, and mental health well-being to complement VALLSS.
3. LinkB5 collects information about all publicly-funded birth-to-five ECE sites and is the data system for Virginia's unified measurement and improvement system, Virginia Quality Birth to Five (VQB5).

Collectively these three initiatives impact almost every child in a publicly-funded program ages birth – 3rd grade in Virginia as well as 4th-8th graders who need additional assistance.

Goals of VAConnects

The goals of VAConnects are to:

- Build a robust, coordinated system with enhanced security features;
- Create a streamlined interface for improved user experience;
- Develop shared data governance; and
- Create consistent, aligned, and integrated reporting.

VAConnects enables these initiatives to not only sustain individual growth but also work together to inform and strengthen Virginia's sizeable investment in learners—birth through 8th grade.

Key Information to Know About VAConnects

- LinkB5, VKRP, and/or VALLSS users will log on to VAConnects in July/August 2025.
- Communications from VDOE, LinkB5, VKRP, and VALLSS will provide information about logging in and transitions for new users.
- New VKRP and LinkB5 users will experience VAConnects as a system upgrade with minimal changes to user roles and information collected.
- Training for LinkB5, VKRP, and VALLSS will continue as in previous years, with information about VAConnects being incorporated into existing training structures.
 - Note that there are no new statewide training requirements. Resources will be broadly available but divisions will determine which staff have to complete training.
 - As in previous years, initiative specific training will be available on a rolling basis throughout summer 2025, with divisions being notified when training is available.
- When VAConnects opens this summer, hotline support will be available to all users via online chat, email, and phone.
- There are no changes to participation requirements. Programmatic requirements and deadlines will continue to be governed by official guidelines.
- There are no changes to the data collected, reports available, support options (e.g., hotline, chat), deadlines, or user types.

Next Steps for VALLSS and VKRP Users in VAConnects

- **July 2025:** All VALLSS and VKRP initiatives will be migrated to VAConnects. This includes:
 - VALLSS: PreK, VALLSS: K-3, VALLSS: 4-8, VALLSS: Español: PreK-3
 - VKRP for PreK and Kindergarten
- **July – August 2025:** Training for VALLSS and VKRP will continue as in previous years, with information about how to access and navigate VAConnects being incorporated into existing training structures and processes. Specific details on available training can be found in the table below.
 - As in previous years, initiative specific training will be available on a rolling basis throughout summer 2025, with divisions being notified when training is available.
- **July 2025:** Hotline support will be available to all users via online chat, email, and phone.
- **Ongoing:** Direct communication with VALLSS and VKRP users will provide information about logging in, training, and transitions for new users.

Next Steps for LinkB5 Users in VAConnects

- **August 2025:** LinkB5 will be migrated to VAConnects for all ECCE sites participating in VQB5.
- **July – August 2025:** Videos, how-to guides, and resources on using LinkB5 in VAConnects will be created and released on a rolling basis.
- **August 2025:** Hotline support will be available to all users via online chat, email, and

phone.

- **Ongoing:** Direct communication with LinkB5 users will provide information about logging in, resources, and transitions for new users.

Training for VALLSS and VKRP Users in VAConnects

Training	Audience	Date Available	Time to Complete	Required
VALLS: Pre-K Certification Tutorial	Educators and Reading Specialists	July 2025	~3 hours online	Strongly encouraged for new users
VALLSS: Grades K-3 Certification Tutorial	Educators and Reading Specialists	July 2025	~3 hours online	Strongly encouraged for new users
VALLSS: Grades 4-8 Certification Tutorial	Educators and Reading Specialists	July 2025	~2.5 hours online	Strongly encouraged for all users
VKRP Fall Webinars	Division/Program Contacts	August 2025	1 hour	Strongly encouraged for division/program contacts
VKRP Train-the-Trainer Sessions – Online <i>(will offer specific sessions for VPI, HS, and VECF MD)</i>	Division/Program Trainers	July-September 2025	1.5 hours	Strongly encouraged for trainers every year <i>(training is updated annually)</i>
VKRP Educator Training Sessions <i>(offered by division/program trainers)</i>	Educators	July-September 2025	1 hour	Strongly encouraged for new users
VKRP Online Training Modules	Educators	July 2025	1 hour	Strongly encouraged for new users who didn't attend training session Divisions/programs make decisions for other educators

Contact Information

For inquiries on VAConnects for Kids:

- VLP: literacy@virginia.edu, 888-882-7257
- VKRP: vkrrp@virginia.edu, 866-301-8278, ext. 1
- LinkB5/VQB5: vqb5@doe.virginia.gov
- Literacy at VDOE: VLA@doe.virginia.gov
- Division of Early Childhood at VDOE: earlychildhood@doe.virginia.gov