VKRP
Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program

Mathematics, Self-Regulation, Social Skills, and Mental Health Assessment Pilot: Grades 1-3

Overview



VKRP Background

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), has developed longitudinal measures of mathematics, self-regulation, social skills, and mental health to assess children's early skills in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. These measures complement Virginia's use of language and literacy screeners in Grades Pre-K through 8 (Virginia Language & Literacy Screening System, VALLSS) administered by Virginia Literacy Partnerships (VLP).

Why is VKRP/VDOE conducting the 1-3 Assessment Pilot?

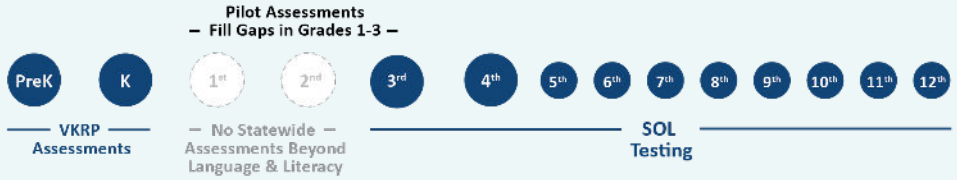
As required by Virginia's 2022-2024 and 2024-2026 Biennial Budgets, researchers at the University of Virginia, including teams from VKRP and VLP, are conducting a Mathematics, Self-Regulation, Social Skills, and Mental Health Assessment Pilot to explore the utility of building longitudinal measures in those areas that could extend current VKRP measures to Grades 1 through 3 (referred to as the Grades 1-3 Assessment Pilot).

Teachers, school divisions, and families across Virginia have expressed interest in better understanding students' development as they progress beyond kindergarten. Currently, there are no statewide assessments for mathematics, self-regulation, or social skills for students in first through third grade.

- **Limited statewide measures:** With the exception of literacy, Virginia has no statewide assessments of early learning in Grades 1 and 2.
- **Lack of continuity:** There is no system to monitor student growth within or across years from Pre-K through Grade 3 (aside from Grade 3 mathematics growth assessments).
- **Varying local practices:** Divisions vary widely in their approach to student assessment in the early grades.

Filling in the Gaps

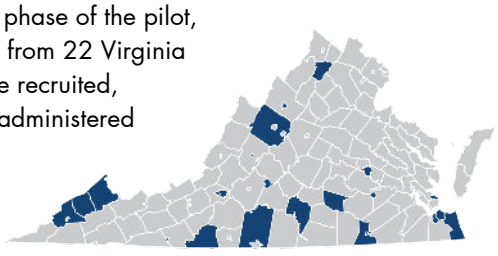
This pilot fills in gaps to track growth and better understand students' development in the early elementary grades beyond language and literacy.



What are the goals of the 1-3 Assessment Pilot?

1. Understand current assessment practices
2. Gather stakeholder perspectives
3. Develop and pilot assessments

In the current phase of the pilot, 180 teachers from 22 Virginia divisions were recruited, trained, and administered assessments.



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What does the Grades 1-3 Assessment Pilot involve?

Phase 1 — 2022-2023

Gathered information about existing assessments and evaluated current interest in state-supported assessments for mathematics, self-regulation, social skills, and mental health.

- Reviewed all Virginia school division websites to catalog existing mathematics and social-emotional learning assessments in Grades 1 through 3.
- Developed and administered a statewide Division Assessment Survey to teachers and school, division, and state leaders.
- Analyzed survey data to identify data gaps, highlight common needs, and assess interest in additional statewide assessments.

Phase 2 — 2023-2025

Expanded assessments to measure Grades 1 through 3 students' mathematics, social skills, self-regulation, and mental health.

- Expanded the Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS): New items were developed to assess mathematics skills for students in Grades 1 through 3.
- Adapted the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS): Revised and added items to make them developmentally appropriate for assessing teachers' perceptions of self-regulation, social skills, and mental health for students in Grades 1 through 3.

Phase 3 — 2025-2026

Test the reliability, validity, and feasibility of the EMAS and CBRS assessments in Grades 1 through 3.

- Recruited and trained 180 teachers from 22 Virginia divisions to administer assessments.
- Completed EMAS and CBRS assessments with over 1,100 first graders, 900 second graders, and 600 third graders.
- Collected feedback from over 150 teachers on the feasibility of administering assessments in their classrooms.

Teachers completed EMAS and CBRS assessments with **over 2,700 total students**.



What's next for the Grades 1-3 Assessment Pilot?

In spring 2026, our team will:

- Analyze survey feedback from pilot teachers on their experience with the assessments.
- Analyze data to understand psychometric properties of the assessments with this sample of students in Grades 1 through 3.
- Compile and report information back to stakeholders, including VDOE.
- Pending VDOE decisions, incorporate Grades 1 through 3 assessments in Virginia Connects for Kids (VAConnects) in the future.

Teacher Testimonials

"The mathematics assessment was completely aligned with our second grade SOLs. It was nice to see my students think about the problem and how to solve it. It also helped me see who needs more support in different areas."

"This would be an excellent tool to use to measure student growth at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the school year."

"Overall, I hope this is an assessment that we will have access to in the future for first and second grade students considering we currently do not have a common assessment that measures growth in math."

The Grades 1-3 Assessment Pilot is funded by the Virginia General Assembly and implemented by the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning at the University of Virginia, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Literacy Partnerships, and Virginia school divisions.