

## VKRP Family Letter Template

VKRP provides this template to participating school divisions, principals, and program administrators so that they can inform families of this initiative, the data that are being collected, and how the information is used. Division and school/program leaders are encouraged to adapt the content in this template, merge this content with other communications, etc., to meet the needs of their division/school/program.

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Dear Family,

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) is an initiative focused on building a more comprehensive understanding of school readiness and student growth. It also includes tools to support early learning. At its core, VKRP is a set of coordinated assessments, a reporting system, and a set of instructional resources. VKRP helps teachers develop a more complete picture of your student's skills during pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. In addition, VKRP provides reports and instructional resources that teachers and families can use to support students' growth and learning inside and outside of their classroom.

Literacy, mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills assessments are combined to provide teachers with a comprehensive picture of students' skills at the beginning and end of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. VKRP places a purposeful and equal emphasis on students' academic and social-emotional skills.

- The **Virginia Language & Literacy Screener: Pre-K** (VALLS: Pre-K) and the **Virginia Language & Literacy Screener: Kindergarten** (VALLS: Kindergarten) assess students' literacy skills through both reading and language questions.
- The **Early Mathematics Assessment System** (EMAS) assesses students' mathematics skills using interactive manipulatives (to include shapes, pattern cards, and pictures) and standardized questions.
- The **Child Behavior Rating Scale** (CBRS) is a teacher-reported measure of two areas of students' social-emotional skills: self-regulation (skills that support students to manage their attention, emotions, and behaviors to adapt to the demands of the school environment) and social skills (skills that support students to successfully navigate interactions and build relationships with peers and adults). Five additional items allow teachers to collect information on students' mental health well-being.

VKRP is a statewide initiative supported by the Virginia General Assembly and implemented by the University of Virginia's (UVA) Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Since 2013, VKRP has expanded from a pilot assessment system in 100 kindergarten classrooms to a statewide comprehensive assessment system, including 132

school divisions and nearly 87,000 kindergarten students and 49,000 pre-kindergarten children. VKRP identifies students' strengths and supports student growth in areas they need it most.

Your child's privacy is important, so your child's VKRP scores will only be shared with their teacher, other educators working with them (i.e., your school/program's administrators, your school and/or division's administrators), and VDOE. UVA will only ever use the data in summary form, with no identifiable information, to protect your child's privacy. The VKRP team at UVA uses the data to examine how VKRP is working, to enhance the assessment system, reports, and resources, and to improve young students' school experiences in Virginia. UVA may also use the information to better understand young students' educational experiences across the Commonwealth and may publish or present this information with no identifiable student information being shared.

You can find more information about VKRP on the VKRP [website \(vkrponline.org\)](http://vkrponline.org). If you have questions about VKRP, the assessment process, or how the information will be used, please feel free to contact me. You can also contact VKRP directly via email at [vkrp@virginia.edu](mailto:vkrp@virginia.edu) or by phone at (866) 301-8278.

Sincerely,

Principal/Program Administrator