



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: July 24 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: PreK Pilot for Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS) - Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) is implemented, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), by the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) at the University of Virginia (UVA) in accordance with state legislation. VKRP adds measures of mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills to complement Virginia's statewide assessment of literacy skills using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). The VKRP is currently used to assess all of Virginia's kindergarteners.

Beginning this school year (2020-2021), PreK teachers in divisions/programs choosing to participate will have the option to pilot use of the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS), the assessment tool used to measure self-regulation and social skills, as part of VKRP. The VKRP mathematics assessment, the Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS), is not currently available for statewide PreK use.

Having an understanding of children's self-regulation and social skills will help teachers better individualize support for students' social emotional learning and development needs. It is even more critical that we have this data in addition to the PALS PreK literacy data to inform instructional decisions that are responsive to the trauma, stress, and disruption that children have experienced due to COVID-19. Considering these concerns, UVA/CASTL has added well-being items to the CBRS tool for the 2020-2021 school year. PreK teachers in participating divisions/programs will benefit from the valuable assessment data, comprehensive reports and aligned instructional resources that comprise the VKRP system.

About the CBRS Tool and Administration Parameters

The CBRS is a short rating scale that teachers complete outside of instructional time. It assesses a student's behavior with other children and adults as well as how the student engages with materials and tasks. Assessment time for the CBRS is approximately 1-3 minutes per student using the online system (which PreK teachers may access via the PALS portal). **Teachers will**

need to have had at least four weeks of interaction with students (can be a combination of in-person and virtual interactions) prior to completion of the CBRS.

Participating in the VKRP-CBRS PreK Pilot

To aid in determining interest in the pilot, additional information on the [CBRS tool and VKRP resources](#) (e.g., VKRP fact sheet and guides, readiness resources) can be found on the [VKRP website](#). Although divisions must indicate a universal desire to participate in the pilot, there can be variability in school/program and teacher level of participation within divisions. There is no statewide mandate for participation. The decision for how to participate at a school/program and teacher level should be determined by division leadership.

If your division decides to participate, you should select a "PreK VKRP Division Representative" who can reach out to VKRP. **Contact information and participation intent should be submitted via the [VKRP-CBRS PreK Pilot Interest Form](#) by Friday, August 14.** VKRP will provide further information on participation guidelines, training and support.

The VDOE is working closely with the [VKRP](#) and [PALS](#) offices to ensure public schools and programs are able to administer assessments in flexible ways this fall. Guidance on current decisions and flexibilities for PALS-PreK testing is outlined in [Superintendent's Memo 173-20](#) and the noted parameters for an extended assessment term and flexible assessment windows will also apply to the CBRS pilot. **The fall 2020 assessment window, for PALS-PreK and the CBRS pilot, will open on July 15, 2020 and will extend through November 19, 2020.** Additional information on CBRS administration guidelines will be forthcoming via VDOE correspondence and direct communication from the VKRP office.

If you have questions regarding the VKRP-CBRS PreK Pilot, please contact Tamilah Richardson, Associate Director of Early Childhood Learning, by email at Tamilah.Richardson@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-4781. For questions about the VKRP, please contact Wanda Weaver, VKRP Project Coordinator, by email at vkpr@virginia.edu or by telephone at (866) 301-8278 ext. 1.

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