

What is VKRP?

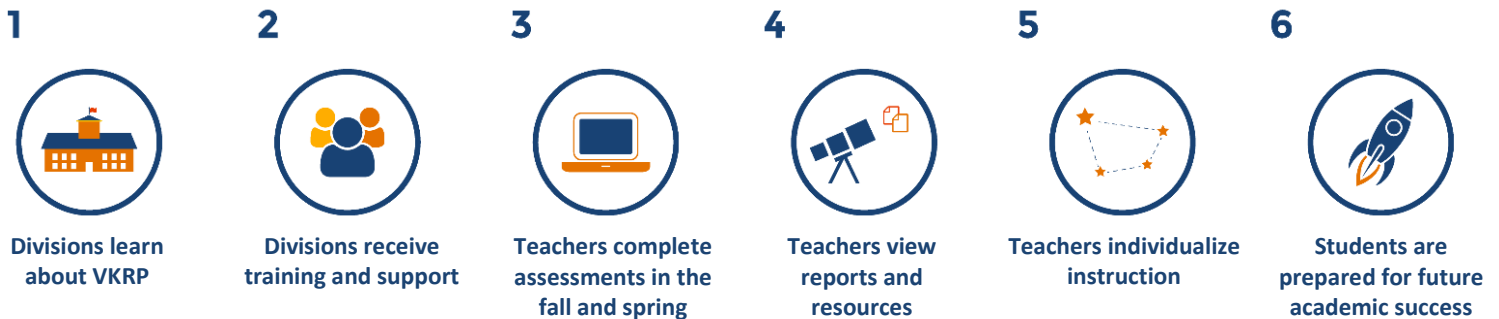
VKRP is an initiative focused on building a more comprehensive understanding of school readiness and success. VKRP is implemented, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), by the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) at the University of Virginia (UVA). VKRP adds measures of mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills to complement Virginia’s statewide assessment of literacy skills using the [Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening \(PALS\)](#).



What is the History of VKRP?

VKRP was initiated by Elevate Early Education (E3), a statewide, bipartisan, issue-advocacy organization dedicated to early childhood education. E3, in partnership with CASTL and with guidance from the VDOE, launched a three-phase approach to create a statewide, comprehensive kindergarten assessment. In Phase I, CASTL researched and selected assessment tools that could be used statewide to accurately assess readiness skills across the domains of mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills to complement the use of the PALS for literacy. During Phase II, VKRP was administered to a group of demographically representative students. Data indicated that 34% of children arrived at kindergarten unprepared in at least one of these critical learning domains. Based on these results, the Virginia State Legislature allocated funding to begin statewide implementation of the expanded assessments. Phase III included a gradual statewide roll-out of VKRP, allowing for input from administrators and teachers as well as expansion of VKRP to include the beginning and end of kindergarten. In 2018, The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation requiring all kindergarten students be assessed in the fall and spring using the VKRP by the end of the 2019-2020 school-year, and annually thereafter ([HB5002, Item 128, H.](#)).

How Does VKRP Work?



Divisions and teachers receive training to learn about the VKRP assessment system. Teachers complete the mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills assessments in the two-three weeks prior to the school’s PALS assessment window. VKRP then provides reports with detailed information about students’ skills at the student, classroom, school, division, and state levels. They give a snapshot of students’ skills in the fall and spring and information about growth in students’ skills across the year. VKRP reports are linked to aligned instructional resources that teachers can use to support students’ growth and learning.

What Assessments Does VKRP Use?

VKRP places a purposeful and equal emphasis on children’s academic and social-emotional skills.

- The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) is used to assess students’ literacy skills.
- The Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS) is used to assess students’ mathematics skills.
- The Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS) is used to assess students’ social skills and self-regulation.