



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Updated August 2023

What is “Ready Regions”?

A sturdy regional network capable of supporting increased access to quality early childhood opportunities across the Commonwealth. For more information, go to: <https://vecf.org/ready-regions/>.

What are Ready Regions’ responsibilities?

Ready Regions provide strategic leadership and bring public and private partners together to ensure Virginia’s early childhood system prepares children and their families for success. They are responsible for communication, coordination, integration of early childhood services and resources, and prioritizing families’ access to high-quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) services. Ready Regions serve as the entry point for ECCE site participation in Virginia’s quality measurement and improvement system, Virginia Quality Birth to Five (VQB5), implement regional [Mixed Delivery](#) efforts, coordinate enrollment across publicly funded ECCEs, and engage families in designing a system that works for them.

What is the Virginia Department of Education’s role in Ready Regions?

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed [legislation](#) directing the Board of Education (BOE) to establish a unified public-private system for early childhood care and education. In 2022, the legislature [codified](#) a system of regional early childhood systems building entities (Ready Regions) to be responsible for coordinating enrollment for families and implementing the uniform measurement and improvement system. The VDOE administers the unified public-private early childhood system and VQB5, as established by the BOE and State Superintendent of Public Instruction and works with the University of Virginia to maintain a data system.¹ The VDOE provides funding and resources to VECF to support Ready Regions’ coordination of the work within each region.

What is the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation’s role in Ready Regions?

The [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation \(VECF\)](#) administers and oversees the Ready Regions network, coordinates technical assistance, and leverages public and private funding to support core functions of Ready Regions.

What is VQB5?

VQB5 (Virginia Quality Birth to Five) is the unified measurement and improvement system administered by VDOE and coordinated locally by Ready Regions with support from VECF. VQB5 focuses on the quality of all publicly-funded birth-five classrooms and supports families to choose quality programming across different ECCE program types. VQB5 establishes shared expectations for measuring quality and supporting teachers for all birth to five sites. Through VQB5, teachers and leaders receive the feedback and support they need to help young children learn. As of fall 2023, all publicly-funded birth-to-five ECCE

¹ [LinkB5](#) is a data system built and maintained by the University of Virginia to capture ECCE program-, classroom-, and teacher-level data. It houses all VQB5 data.

sites are required to participate in VQB5. Quality profiles from the 2023-2024 participation year will be published in fall 2024. For the definition of publicly-funded and answers to other VQB5 FAQ, go to the [VQB5 landing page](#).

Will Ready Regions coordinate all ECCE initiatives in Virginia, such as VQB5, Mixed Delivery, RecognizeB5, and other publicly funded early childhood initiatives?

Ready Regions coordinate and support a range of significant ECCE initiatives, including activities of VQB5, leadership of Mixed Delivery, communications and support for RecognizeB5, coordination of families' enrollment in publicly-funded ECCE programs, and engagement of families in designing a system that works for them. Ready Regions are charged with using regional data to address gaps in available, affordable child care and providing leadership for advancing other regional early childhood systems building priorities.

Ready Regions are expected to collaborate with school divisions, social and human services, health districts, [state quality improvement partners](#), ECCE programs, and other organizations relevant to early childhood priorities. To continue to unify and strengthen the early childhood system and improve school readiness outcomes, Virginia will look to integrate other key public investments while complying with all state rules for procurement. Ready Regions are encouraged to compete for public and private funds that can help advance their efforts to build partnerships, increase access, improve quality, and engage families.

How were the Ready Regions Lead Organizations selected?

Ready Region lead organizations were selected through a competitive process in 2021. Successful applicants demonstrated the capacity to engage and work collaboratively with a variety of relevant constituents including: 1) state-level entities responsible for setting policy and investing public funds; 2) state-level entities serving as intermediaries and advocates; 3) local partners providing direct services to children and families, including, but not limited to, child care centers, family day homes, Head Start, and schools; and 4) families engaged in informing the design of a system that meets their needs and preferences. Ready Regions grants are awarded through a competitive process administered by VECF with regular re-competition periods.

What is VECF's Mixed Delivery Program?

VECF's Mixed Delivery program provides public funding for full-day, year-round ECCE services for eligible families of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, responding to the growing demand for publicly-funded ECCE at private sites that meet the varied needs and preferences of families. Administered as of FY24 only by Ready Regions lead organizations, Mixed Delivery uses the same eligibility and curriculum standards as the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). Additionally, ECCE sites serving 3- and 4-year-olds through Mixed Delivery use the same child assessment standards as VPI. To learn more about Mixed Delivery, go to: <https://vecf.org/mixed-delivery-grants/>.

What is RecognizeB5?

RecognizeB5, administered as a partnership among VDOE, VECF, and UVA, provides financial incentives to eligible teachers at ECCE sites that participate in VQB5. The program, integrated into Ready Regions outreach and communications, is a strategy for supporting, retaining, and rewarding talented yet undercompensated early educators in publicly funded ECCE settings, as part of Virginia's effort to increase access to high-quality ECCE experiences for historically marginalized children, families, and communities. Initial studies conducted in Virginia show that incentives provided through RecognizeB5

reduced the rate of teacher turnover in private child care sites by about half. To learn more about RecognizeB5, visit the [RecognizeB5 Help Center](#).

What is the purpose of the Ready Regions Family Councils?

Every Ready Region is charged with convening and leading a Family Council, representative of their region, to engage family voice and ensure that state and regional ECCE systems are designed to meet their needs and preferences. Ready Region Family Council members participate in Ready Region Shared Governance bodies, represent their regions on the statewide [Virginia Promise Partnership](#) Parent Advisory, and provide family perspectives and guidance to regional and state early childhood initiatives and Ready Regions early childhood priorities. To learn more about Family Councils, contact your [Ready Region](#) Lead.

How can I get involved with Ready Regions?

Interested stakeholders, including families with young children, local government, business and economic development leaders, childcare centers, family day homes, Head Start, Mixed Delivery programs, and schools, can become involved by reaching out to the Ready Region Lead for their locality. To find your Ready Region Lead, visit: <https://vecf.org/ready-regions/>.

What are the common terms and abbreviations used by Ready Regions?

Ready Regions use the terms and abbreviations listed below. A list of common terms and abbreviations is also included in Appendix H of the [2023-2024 VQB5 Proposed Guidelines](#).

AEII: [Advancing Effective Interactions & Instruction](#)

CASTL: [Center for Advanced Study of Teaching & Learning](#)

CACFP: [Child & Adult Care Food Program](#)

CCA: [Child Care Aware of Virginia](#)

CCAoA: [Child Care Aware of America](#)

CCDBG: Child Care and Development Block Grant

CDA: [Child Development Associate National Credential](#)

CE: Coordinated Enrollment

CLASS: [Classroom Assessment Scoring System](#)

DLL: Dual Language Learners

ECAC: [Early Childhood Advisory Committee](#)

ECCE: Early Childhood Care & Education

ECMHC: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

ELDS: [Virginia's Early Learning & Development Standards Birth-Five Learning Guidelines](#)

FCC: Family Child Care

FDH: Family Day Home

FE: Family Engagement

FPL: Federal Poverty Level

FY: Fiscal Year

HS ECLKC: [Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#)

ICP: [Inclusive Classroom Profile](#)

IDEA: [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

IEP: Individualized Education Plan (or Program)

IFSP: Individualized Family Service Plan

ITBC: Infant and Toddler Behavior Consultants

ITSN: [Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network](#)

LDSS: Local Department of Social Services
LinkB5: [Data Portal for VQB5](#)
LEA: Local Education Agency
Mixed Delivery: [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's Mixed Delivery Program](#)
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
NAEYC: National Association for the Education of Young Children
NAFCC: National Association for Family Child Care
NCECDTL: [National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning](#)
PDG B5: Federal Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five
PD: Professional Development
QRIS: Quality Rating & Improvement System
RFP: Request for Proposal
RecognizeB5: Teacher Recognition Program
RR: [Ready Regions](#)
SB: Smart Beginnings
TANF: [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families](#)
TTAC: [Training & Technical Assistance Centers](#)
UVA: University of Virginia
VA ITSN: [Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network](#)
VAAEYC: [Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children](#)
VAFCCA: [Virginia Alliance for Family Child Care Associations](#)
VCPD: [Virginia Cross-Sector Professional Development team, PD Essentials members](#)
VHSA: [Virginia Head Start Association](#)
VDH: Virginia Department of Health
VDSS: Virginia Department of Social Services
VDOE: Virginia Department of Education
VECF: [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation](#)
VKRP: [Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program](#)
VLP (formerly PALS [Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening]): [Virginia Literacy Partnerships](#)
VPI: [Virginia Preschool Initiative](#)
VPP: [Virginia Promise Partnership](#)
VQB5: [Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System](#)