



## OVERVIEW

*Updated January 2026*

### What is “Ready Regions?”

A sturdy regional network, established in Virginia code ([§ 22.1-289.05](#)), that is responsible for leading regional early childhood systems building and coordinating early childhood care and education services in nine Virginia regions to prepare all children and families for success. For more information, go to: <https://vecf.org/ready-regions/>.

### What do Ready Regions do?

Ready Regions lead agencies are responsible for providing strategic leadership, assuring full implementation of core responsibilities, and convening public and private partners to collaborate on strengthening Virginia’s early childhood systems. 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:

- **Strengthen quality.** Ensure all components are in place to coordinate quality measurement and guide improvement in publicly-funded classrooms as part of Virginia Quality Birth to Five ([VQB5](#)).
- **Build relationships.** Engage with leaders across the region to facilitate buy-in for shared accountability and benefit.
- **Increase access.** Administer [Mixed Delivery](#) programming in the region, and coordinate enrollment to help parents learn about and access ECCE services that meet their needs and preferences, while helping ECCE providers connect with and serve more families.
- **Engage families.** Support a Family Council, made up of families who reflect the region, to provide input on early childhood design and decisions, and ensure the early childhood system works for families.

Ready Regions are expected to collaborate with school divisions, social and human services, [state quality improvement partners](#), ECCE programs, and other organizations relevant to early childhood systems building priorities.

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.

### What is VQB5?

To prepare all children for kindergarten and in response to state law, Virginia has developed the [Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System \(VQB5\)](#) to measure and help improve the quality of all publicly-funded birth-to-five classrooms and support families to choose quality programming across program types.

All publicly-funded birth-to-five early childhood programs are required to participate in VQB5 on an annual basis. Programs that do not receive public funding have the option to participate. Details are available on the [VQB5 Participation Requirements](#) webpage.

VQB5 Quality Profiles (with information about early childhood program performance on quality measures and other topics of interest to families, policy makers, and the public) are available at [www.EarlyChildhoodQuality.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.EarlyChildhoodQuality.doe.virginia.gov).

Ready Regions coordinate and support participation in VQB5 for ECCE programs in the region.

To learn more about VQB5, visit the [VDOE Quality Measurement and Improvement \(VQB5\) website](#) or e-mail [vqb5@doe.virginia.edu](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.edu).

#### **What is the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's Mixed Delivery Program?**

Ready Regions coordinate Virginia's Mixed Delivery program, which provides publicly funded ECCE services in licensed (non-faith-based), private ECCE settings for eligible children. It funds full-day, year-round ECCE services for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, meeting growing demand for publicly funded ECCE at private sites that meet the varied needs and preferences of families.

To learn more about Mixed Delivery, go to: <https://vecf.org/mixed-delivery-grants/>.

#### **What is the purpose of the Ready Regions Family Councils?**

Every Ready Region supports 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 or collaborate with 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](#).

#### **How are Ready Region lead agencies identified?**

Ready Region lead agencies were identified through triennial competitive processes, administered by VECF in 2021 and again in 2024. Successful applicants demonstrated the capacity to deliver Ready Region core responsibilities and a track record of leading early childhood systems building collaboratively with a robust range of public and private partners, including state and regional constituents, decision-makers, families, and birth to five early childhood care and education providers.

#### **What is the Virginia Department of Education's role in Ready Regions?**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) oversees the unified public-private early childhood system and VQB5 as required by law and works with UVA to maintain a data system to support, track, and document these efforts. 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.

#### **How can I get involved with Ready Regions?**

Interested stakeholders, including families with young children, local governments, 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 for their locality. To find your Ready Region, visit: <https://vecf.org/ready-regions>.