

VQB5 Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions



The following talking points are intended to address frequently asked questions regarding the Curriculum component of VQB5. More information is available in the [VQB5 Guidelines](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why is curriculum measured in VQB5?
 - All birth-to-five early childhood educators benefit from access to and support to use quality curriculum to promote children’s learning and development. ([Investing in Our Future \(2013\)](#)).
 - A curriculum component is a part of VQB5 because curriculum is a nationally recognized quality indicator.
- Is curriculum use required?
 - No. Sites can participate in VQB5 and meet expectations without having a VDOE-approved Early Childhood curriculum.
 - Programs are required to enter information about optional use of [VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum](#) for each classroom during VQB5 Registration (by October 1), with the option to update curriculum information by May 31.
- How does curriculum use impact my site’s quality rating?
 - In 2025-2026, Sites using a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum in at least one classroom will receive 100 points towards their overall quality rating.
 - Starting in the 2026-2027 year, sites will only receive optional curriculum points if they are using an approved curriculum in every classroom. No change for 2025-2026.
- What is the deadline to enter a VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum on LinkB5 in order to receive 100 points toward our overall score?
 - Programs can report curriculum usage at the classroom level in LinkB5 each year once registration opens on August 15. The deadline to enter information into LinkB5 is May 31 of each year.
- How do I know which early childhood curriculum options are approved?
 - Programs can choose and use one of the [70+ VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum options](#), including open-source options with low-to-no cost training and resources ([STREAMin³](#), [Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence](#), [Great First Eight](#), [Circle Curriculum](#), and [Early Learning Matters](#)).
- How can I decide which curriculum will work best for my program?
 - Providers can find more information by visiting curriculum vendor websites and contacting the company directly to ask questions.

- Providers can view VDOE’s [Early Childhood Curriculum Vendor "Get to Know You" Series Library](#) to learn more about curriculum options.
- Are there any curriculum options for Family Day Homes?
 - Family Day Homes may choose and use any VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curriculum that meets the needs of their program. VDOE continually reviews options that include mixed-age curricula.
- Does VDOE offer financial support to providers to purchase curriculum?
 - The VDOE has partnered with [STREAMin³](#) to provide a high-quality, comprehensive, low-to-no-cost birth to five curriculum option to Virginia’s early learning programs.
 - Other open-source options with low-to-no cost training and resources included on VDOE’s approved Early Childhood Curriculum list are [Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence](#), [Great First Eight](#), [Circle Curriculum](#), and [Early Learning Matters](#).
- What are the standards used to determine if a curriculum is approved by VDOE?
 - VDOE-approved Early Childhood Curricula are comprehensive and aligned to the [Virginia Early Learning and Development Standards](#) and [baseline criteria for quality early childhood curriculum](#).
- What does “curriculum pending” mean?
 - When a provider requests a review of a curriculum, the publisher is then contacted to initiate the review process, and the curriculum is then added to the pending list. The curriculum review takes place as soon as the publisher sends materials in for review and are typically completed within three-four weeks.
- Is there a deadline for a “pending” curriculum to submit materials for review?
 - No. Publishers may submit materials for a comprehensive curriculum review at any time. However, any curriculum that is pending as of March 15 will likely not be approved before May 31 for the current VQB5 year.
- I already use a curriculum, but it does not appear on the approved list. How do I get it added to the approved list?
 - If you are interested in adding your curriculum to VDOE’s approved list, you may submit a request using the [Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#).
- I developed my own curriculum, can I continue using it?
 - If you are interested in adding your independently developed (or, “homegrown”) curriculum to VDOE’s approved list, you may submit a request using the [Pre-Submission Checklist for Birth to Five Programs](#).

For more information, visit the [VDOE Early Childhood Curriculum Webpage](#).

Contact Cassandra.CaffeeMorelock@doe.virginia.gov if you have questions about curriculum.