

In 2022, the General Assembly passed the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) to improve literacy outcomes for students in the Commonwealth. As part of the VLA, K-3 students are required to be screened by a single, comprehensive literacy screener. Beginning in 2024-2025, Virginia will administer the Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System (VALLSS) developed by the University of Virginia (UVA). VALLSS replaces the former Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) for all Virginia students.

VALLSS serves as an early warning system to detect reading difficulties which will allow educators to better understand early literacy teaching targets. VALLSS contains subtests for students including Alphabet Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Decoding/Encoding, Oral Reading Fluency, Passage Comprehension, Vocabulary, Syntax and Processing.

The screener will provide Bands of Risk on the Fall, Mid-Year, and Spring assessments.

High Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk
Students are the most likely to have ongoing reading difficulties.	Requires additional explicit instruction for identified students.	Students are at the lowest risk for reading difficulties.
Students qualify for Early Reading Intervention Services (EIRI).	Supplemental instruction is highly recommended based on student need.	Cumulative review of student progress is needed.
Students must have a student reading plan in place.		

Students should be screened according to the following guidelines:

	Fall	Mid-Year	Spring
Kindergarten and Grade 1	All Students Screened	Required	All Students Screened
Grade 2	All Students Screened	Required	Students at Moderate or High Risk are Screened
Grade 3	Students new to VA public schools & students who received summer intervention services	Optional Progress Monitoring Window for Students with Moderate Risk and Low Risk All Students scoring high risk must be screened.	All Students take the Reading SOL Assessment. Screening encouraged for students who were high or moderate risk at Fall and/or Mid-Year.

- The mid-year screener is required for K-2 students and Grade 3 students who scored at high risk.
- RAN is required for Grades 1-3 in Fall. For Kindergarten, RAN is required at Mid-Year.
- Mid-Year is a shorter assessment including only code-based subtests (K-3) and RAN in Kindergarten.

VALLSS 2025-2026 K-3 Assessment Calendar

- For the Fall term, the four-week assessment period begins
 - two weeks from Grades 1-3 students' first day of school.
 - six weeks from Kindergarten students' first day of school.
- For all terms, VALLSS must be administered within any contiguous three-week (15 instructional-day) window within the four-week assessment period.
- **School holidays and teacher in-service days should not be counted in your window. Adjust the calendar to account for non-instructional days in your division.**
- The Score Entry Closes date is the deadline for entering scores into the website. Late scores cannot be entered.
- If your start date is not listed, calculate your Fall assessment dates based on your students' first day of school.

For students starting school on July 21	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 4	Sept. 2	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Aug. 29	Sept. 26	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Sept. 12	Oct. 10	Feb. 13	May 29

For students starting school on July 28	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 11	Sept. 8	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 5	Oct. 3	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Sept. 19	Oct. 17	Feb. 13	May 29

For students starting school on August 4	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 18	Sept. 15	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 12	Oct. 10	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Sept. 26	Oct. 24	Feb. 13	May 29

For students starting school on August 11	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Aug. 25	Sept. 22	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 19	Oct. 17	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 3	Oct. 31	Feb. 13	May 29

For students starting school on August 18	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Sept. 2	Sept. 29	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Sept. 26	Oct. 24	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 10	Nov. 7	Feb. 13	May 29

For students starting school on August 25	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Sept. 8	Oct. 6	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Oct. 3	Oct. 31	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 17	Nov. 14	Feb. 13	May 29

For students starting school on September 2	FALL 2025		MID-YEAR 2026	SPRING 2026
	VALLSS: 1-3	VALLS: K		
Assessment Period Begins	Sept. 15	Oct. 13	Jan. 5	April 20
Assessment Period Ends	Oct. 10	Nov. 7	Jan. 30	May 15
Score Entry Closes	Oct. 24	Nov. 21	Feb. 13	May 29