
2024-2025

VIRGINIA LITERACY ACT (VLA) IMPLEMENTATION



VLA ONE-PAGER



The Virginia Literacy Act

Like children across the nation, Virginia's children are in the midst of a literacy crisis. Across the Commonwealth, **one in three kindergarten to second grade students are reading below benchmark**, and far too many third graders are not passing their Reading SOL. This impacts students for years to come; students who are not proficient in reading by the end of third grade are **four times more likely to drop out of high school** than proficient readers.

Virginia is leading the nation in addressing this challenge by passing the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA), which aims to reverse these trends and improve early literacy outcomes for the Commonwealth's youngest learners. As a result of the VLA, the Governor and the General Assembly have made additional investments in early reading to ensure divisions have the resources they need. As planning for implementation begins, the Virginia Department of Education will continue to partner with school divisions, educators, and families on this multi-year effort.

When the VLA goes into effect in the 2024-2025 school year, it will ensure that:



Every **student** in kindergarten to grade 3:

- ✓ Receives core literacy instruction from an evidence-based literacy curriculum¹ for the entire literacy block
- ✓ Receives additional evidence-based instruction and intervention, as outlined in a student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks



Every **family** of a student in kindergarten to grade 3:

- ✓ Has access to free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources to support their child's literacy development at home
- ✓ Can participate in the development of their child's student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks



Every **teacher** of students in kindergarten to grade 3:

- ✓ Uses evidence-based literacy curriculum for the entire literacy block
- ✓ Assesses student learning using approved literacy screeners routinely throughout the year
- ✓ Uses student-level data to inform both whole group instruction and individualized instruction and intervention
- ✓ Provided with pre-service preparation and/or in-service training in evidence-based literacy instruction



Every **reading specialist** working with students kindergarten to grade 3:

- ✓ Coordinates and implements intervention services for students not meeting literacy benchmarks
- ✓ Develops, oversees implementation of, and monitors student progress on student reading plans, in collaboration with teachers and families



Every **division**:

- ✓ Develops a division-wide literacy plan
- ✓ Ensures all kindergarten through grade 3 teachers have and use evidence-based literacy curriculum
- ✓ Staffs at least one reading specialist for every 550 students in kindergarten through grade 3
- ✓ Provides professional development² in evidence-based literacy instruction to teachers, reading specialists and principals
- ✓ Receives coaching and support from regional literacy coaches



Every **educator preparation program**:

- ✓ Requires aspiring teachers and reading specialists to complete coursework in and demonstrate a mastery of evidence-based literacy instruction

¹ VLA requires school divisions to use evidence-based literacy curriculum approved by the Board.

² VLA requires school divisions to provide evidence-based literacy instruction professional development approved by the Board, at no cost to the teachers and reading specialists.

The VLA one-pager is provided in your child's Title I folder today. It can also be found at the following website:

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/38768/638063939944270000>





Southampton County Public Schools 2024-2025 Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) Implementation

Southampton County Public Schools Literacy Vision

Through the combined efforts of key stakeholders*, the students of Southampton County Public Schools will be provided literacy instruction anchored in the use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) & rooted in science-based reading research (SBRR). Systematic, explicit instruction will be provided using best practices for evidence-based literacy instruction (EBLI) through:

1. Daily Phonemic and Phonological Awareness instruction.
2. Targeted practice opportunities with foundational reading skills using a structured phonics approach in the primary grades (K-2). Students in Grades 3-5 will also receive foundational reading skills phonics instruction via the core instructional program.
3. Consistent opportunities to build fluency, vocabulary knowledge and knowledge of the world using authentic text on a wide variety of topics.
4. Using text evidence to make meaning of complex texts in writing or through speaking.
5. Targeted intervention provided for students falling in the high risk band on the Virginia Language and Literacy Screener (VALLS).

*Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to students, parents/guardians, teachers/staff, administrators, and community partners.

The Southampton County Public Schools (SCPS) Division Literacy Plan is located on the SCPS website <https://www.southampton.k12.va.us/> under the About Us Tab.

	GENERAL EDUCATION	SPECIAL POPULATIONS (ELL, Gifted, SWD)
Core (K-5):	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, HMH Into Reading Virginia, 2020 (K-5)	All special populations will receive the same core program.
Supplemental Instruction (K-5):	Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Kindergarten, 2022 (K) Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Primary, 2022 (1-2) 95 Percent Phonics Core Program (PCP) (K-2) IXL English Language Arts, 2023 (K-5) Learning A-Z, Raz-Plus, 2023 (K-5)	Special populations will have access to the same supplemental programs as the general education students in addition to: UFLI Foundations: An explicit and Systematic Phonics Program (1 st Edition, 2022) – Special Education Population
Intervention (K-5):	Bridge the Gap: Intervention Lessons, 2020 (3-5) Benchmark Phonics Intervention, 2022 (K-5)	Special populations will have access to the same intervention programs as the general education students in addition to: SPIRE 4 th Edition, 2017, with Sounds Sensible 3 rd Edition, 2020 - Special Education Population

The VLA requires that “each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 8.” Provided in the table to the left are the programs chosen by SCPS and the grade levels designated to these programs.



Southampton County Public Schools 2024-2025 Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) Implementation

Additional Family Resources



SCPS Division
Literacy Plan



VA Literacy
Partnership
Updates



How Can I
Help My
Child?



Letter
Tile Play



DIVISION LITERACY PLAN (DLP)

- Required by the VLA Legislation to create a Division Literacy Plan.
- The SCPS DLP was submitted to VDOE and has been approved.
- The DLP is located on the division website under the “About Us” tab. It can also be found on the SCPS Virginia Literacy Act Page.
- Edits/Revisions, December 6

Virginia Literacy Act

SCPS VLA Implementation Page

*Revisions:
Coming Soon!!!*

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1. Daily Phonemic and Phonological Awareness instruction. [Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program K-5](#)
2. Targeted practice opportunities with foundational reading skills using a structured phonics approach in the primary grades (K-2). Students in Grades 3-5 will also receive foundational reading skills phonics instruction via the core instructional program. [95% Phonics Core Program/Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading/UFLI](#)
3. Consistent opportunities to build fluency, vocabulary knowledge and knowledge of the world using authentic text on a wide variety of topics. [HMH Into Reading](#)
4. Using text evidence to make meaning of complex texts in writing or through speaking. [HMH Into Reading](#)
5. Targeted intervention provided for students falling in the high risk band on the Virginia Language and Literacy Screener (VALLS). [Benchmark Intervention/SPIRE](#)

*Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to students, parents/guardians, teachers/staff, administrators, and community partners.

SCPS ADOPTED PROGRAMS

	GENERAL EDUCATION	SPECIAL POPULATIONS (ELL, Gifted, SWD)
Core (K-5):	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, HMH Into Reading Virginia, 2020 (K-5)	All special populations will receive the same core program.
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*Each program chosen by the division is from the approved VDOE Core, Supplemental, or Intervention VLA Program List. Each program has been evaluated by the VDOE and considered to be evidence-based and high quality.

Virginia Language & Literacy Screening System VALLSS (K-3)

- VALLSS replaces Virginia's Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) and was developed by UVA's Virginia Literacy Partnerships.
- Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE'S) approved & sponsored literacy screener
- VALLSS will:
 - Provide student data of critical literacy skills
 - Identify students at risk for developing reading difficulties, and
 - Provide instructionally-useful information to target instruction
- Fall VALLSS reports have been sent home.
- VALLSS testing will take place again mid-year and in the spring.

STUDENT READING PLANS

- The need for a student reading plan is based on VALLSS data.
- Students scoring in the high-risk band on VALLSS are required to have a student reading plan (SRP) in place.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in the development of their child's SRP.
 - Phone call
 - In-person
 - Via Survey
- Parents will receive a physical copy of their child's SRP.

EIRI/INTERVENTION

- Early Intervention Reading Initiative
- Students that fall in the high-risk band are required to receive 2.5 hours of EIRI intervention per week.
- Those providing intervention (reading specialist, special education teacher, etc.) must use a state-approved intervention program during that 2.5 hours of instruction.
- SCPS Intervention Programs include but are not limited to:
 - Benchmark (Reading Specialists)
 - SPIRE (Special Education)

VLP TEACHER TRAINING

- The VDOE and Virginia Literacy Partnerships (VLP) have collaborated to provide Science of Reading & VLA Implementation training free of charge to school divisions.
- All SCPS teachers are registered for this training or have been previously trained in the Science of Reading.
- It is a goal of the Virginia Literacy Act to provide evidence-based, high-quality instruction; these courses are aimed at ensuring that teachers are well-prepared to provide this type of instruction.

VLP REGIONAL READING COACHES



Stephanie Pressley



Nathalie Rose

*Provide Coaching &
Support*

THANK YOU!!

