



# Understanding the Virginia Literacy Act and how it supports our students

With the passage of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) in the 2022 General Assembly, Virginia is taking the lead nationwide to improve early literacy outcomes for Virginia's young learners. Through the VLA, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will support school divisions through a multi-year effort with tools, resources, technical assistance and funding.

The Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) ensures that:

- **Every student in kindergarten to grade five** receives core literacy instruction from an evidence-based literacy curriculum for the entire literacy block and may receive additional evidence-based instruction and intervention, as outlined in a student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks.
- **Every student in grade six through grade eight** receives additional evidence-based supplemental instruction and intervention, as outlined in a student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks.
- **Every family** will have access to online resources to support literacy development at home and will be able to participate in the development of their child's student reading plan, if their child does not meet literacy benchmarks.
- **Every teacher** will use evidence-based literacy instruction for the entire literacy block, assess student learning using approved literacy screeners, use student-level data to inform instruction and intervention, and participate in pre-service preparation or training on evidence-based literacy instruction.

- **Every reading specialist**, in consultation with classroom teachers, will coordinate and oversee intervention for students not meeting literacy benchmarks, and will develop and monitor student progress on student reading plans, working closely with families and teachers.
- **Every division** will develop a literacy plan, ensure the use of evidence-based literacy curriculum, staff enough reading specialists to support intervention needs, and provide professional development to support teachers, reading specialists, and principals.