

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Newport News Public Schools administers screening and diagnostic assessments to determine support needs and monitor student growth throughout the school year.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the screening and diagnostic assessments administered to kindergarten students throughout the year in accordance with [Virginia Code § 22.1-215.2](#). You will receive your child’s scores and any needed intervention service information at the end of each assessment.

There is no preparation needed for any assessment listed below. Most tasks on the assessments are administered one-on-one or in a small group setting and are spread across the testing window to allow instruction to continue. Data collected will be used as a baseline of your child’s literacy, math, and social-emotional needs and teachers will use it to inform instruction.

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)

PALS is an assessment tool administered in the fall and spring to measure students’ literacy development. PALS has two purposes: 1) a screening tool to identify students at risk of reading difficulties, and 2) to inform teachers’ instruction through student data.

Fall PALS testing window: October 10 - October 24, 2022

Mid-Year testing window: January 9 - January 23, 2023

Spring PALS testing window: May 8 - May 19, 2023

Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS)

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) is the Commonwealth’s statewide school readiness assessment system. Teachers use VKRP to understand the foundational skills of kindergarten students in the fall and spring of each school year in accordance with state legislation. Math foundational skills are measured by VKRP’s Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS).

Fall testing window: September 26 - October 7, 2022

Spring testing window: April 24 - May 5, 2023

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
Geometry	Patterning	Numeracy	Computation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shape Recognition Shape Properties Composing Shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproducing Patterns Extending Patterns Creating Patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counting and Cardinality Subitizing Comparing and Ordering Numbers Composing and Decomposing Numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition Subtraction

Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS)

VKRP also includes the CBRS, which is a short rating scale completed in the fall and spring and measures two areas of a student's social-emotional skills: self-regulation and social skills. Teachers will use observational data to complete the CBRS.

Fall Completion Period: September 26 - October 7, 2022

Spring Completion Period: April 24 - May 5, 2023

CBRS Skill	CBRS Skill Explanation
Self-Regulation	focuses on the skills to control one's own attention, emotions, and behaviors to cope with the demands of the school environment
Social Skills	includes the ability to navigate interactions and relationships with peers and adults successfully

Thank you for your support,

The NNPS Curriculum and Development Department