



As of August 2023, all publicly-funded programs that serve children ages birth to five are required by state law to participate in the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five system (VQB5).

## What is the definition of a “publicly-funded provider” for family child care programs?

A publicly-funded family child care provider:

- Serves children ages birth to five (not in kindergarten)
- Is registered as a subsidy vendor for local, state or federal funding
- Has three or more unrelated children enrolled in their program
- Is a Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), Early Head Start (EHS), or Head Start (HS) program (even if they do not meet the three unrelated children requirement)

## What are “unrelated children?”

Unrelated children are children who are not a direct relative of the child care provider or lead teacher.

## What is a “direct relative?”

A direct relative is a son, daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew by blood or adoption of the family child care provider or lead teacher.

## What if I am registered as a subsidy vendor, but none of my currently enrolled children receive subsidies?

If you have three unrelated children, or are a VPI, EHS or HS program, you are still required to participate in VQB5 even if none of the currently enrolled children receive subsidy.

## What is the process for determining eligibility in VQB5?

If you are a registered subsidy vendor, you must register in LinkB5 between August 15 – October 1. The system will determine your eligibility and share that information with you during the registration process. If you are found not eligible, you must send a letter to the Virginia Department of Education to notify them.

## I don’t think I am eligible to participate. Do I still need to register in LinkB5?

Yes, you are required to register your program in LinkB5 between August 15 – October 1. The LinkB5 system will determine eligibility. All subsidy vendors are required to register in LinkB5.

## What does it mean if I am not eligible?

Programs that are not eligible for VQB5 will not participate in the quality measurement and improvement activities, including local CLASS observations, external CLASS observations, and the RecognizeB5 Teacher Recognition Program.

## If I am not found eligible this year, does that mean I will never participate in VQB5?

No. Subsidy vendors are required to register in LinkB5 every year between August 15 – October 1. Eligibility will be determined during the registration process each year.