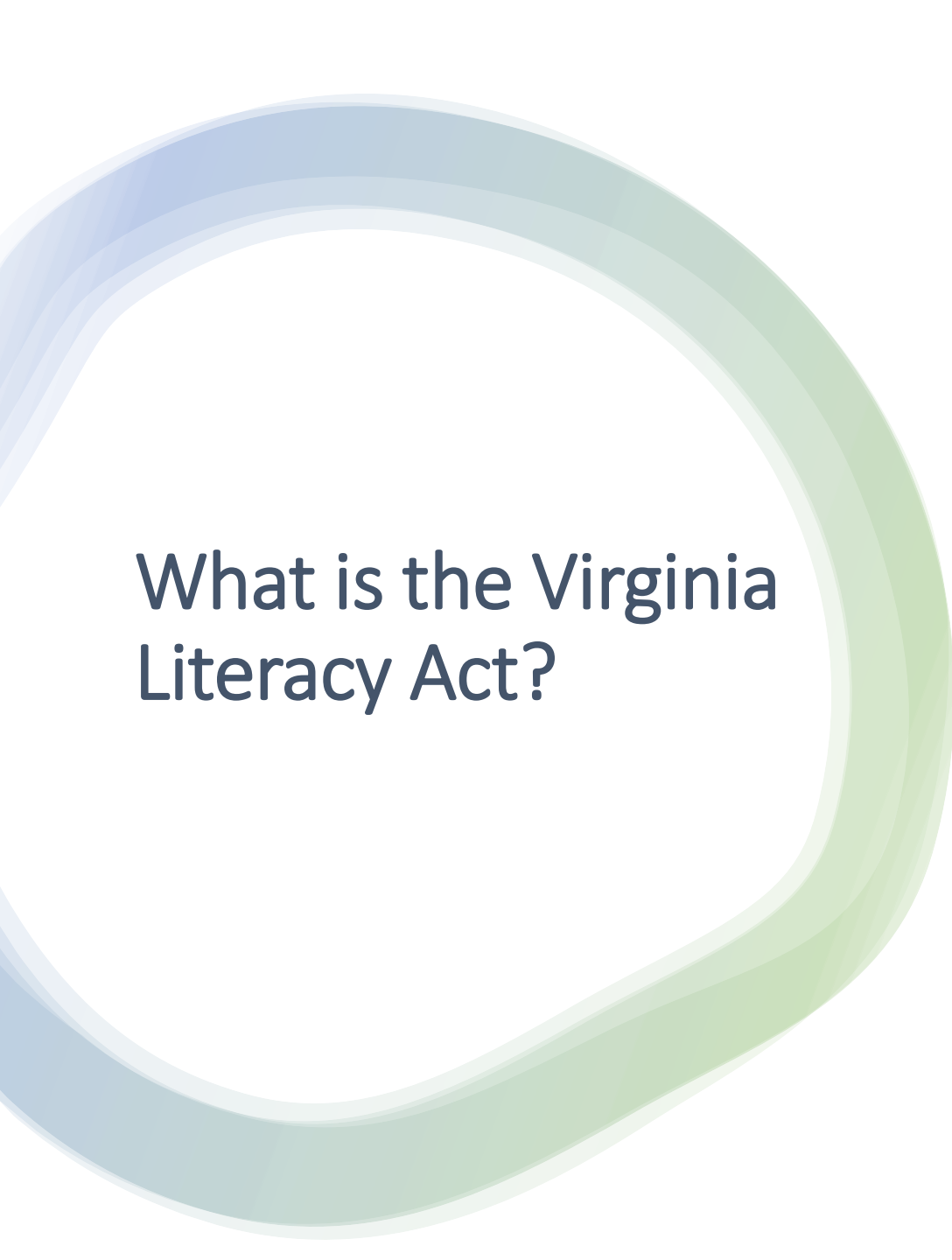




Families and the VLA




What is the Virginia Literacy Act?


- The Virginia Literacy Act:
 - A law aimed at improving reading skills for K-8 students
 - Requires schools to screen all K-5 students for reading difficulties
 - Mandates evidence-based reading instruction and intervention
 - Provides additional support for struggling readers
 - Goals: Early identification and support for reading challenges

Here's What We Know

We are not born wired to read, but all students can be taught to read.




Students must be taught to crack the code to decode efficiently.



All students benefit from systematic and explicit instruction.




Reading comprehension is complex and involves multiple skills.



Literacy skills develop over time with explicit instruction and multiple opportunities for practice.



What does research say?



**Virginia Language &
Literacy Screening
System
(VALLSS)**

What is VALLSS?

- It's a screening tool used by schools in Virginia to assess the early language and literacy skills of students in grades K-5.
- The purpose of VALLSS is to help identify students who may be at risk of developing reading difficulties so they can receive early intervention.

What do VALLSS: Grades K-3 scores tell you?

- 1 If your child is at risk for developing reading difficulties

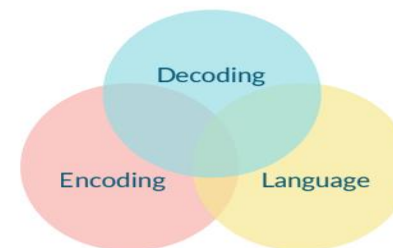
After all of the subtests are completed, the student will receive an indication of an overall band of risk.

These bands are:



- 2 In what components of literacy your child needs further instruction

Teachers use this information to **plan instruction and intervention**, to ensure students get the support they need to catch up.



What do VALLSS Grades 4-8 Scores Tell you?

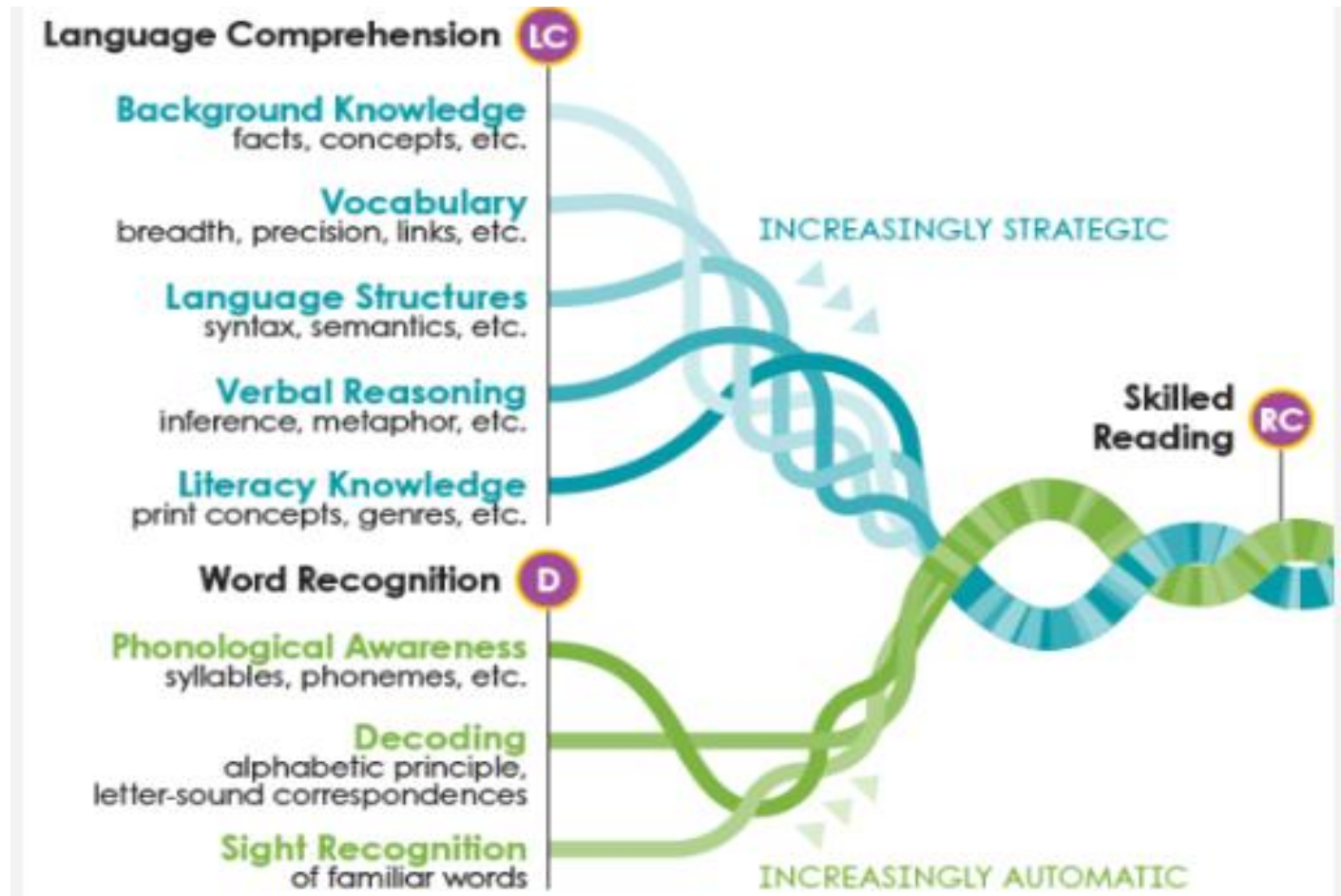


Oral Reading Fluency

Spelling

Sentence Comprehension

Morphology





What to Expect

Division Level

Division wide literacy plan

Evidence based literacy curriculum

New screener (VALLSS)

Classroom Level

Evidence based literacy instruction (Tutoring after and before school)

Use of approved high quality instructional material

Teacher professional development

Student reading plans

Reports from VALLSS

Home Level

Free online resources to support learning at home

Invitation to a reading plan meeting

What Can Families Do Now?

Talk, talk, talk

- Ask your child lots of questions about their experiences, interests, and books.
- Use language to describe and explain shared activities—special events and everyday activities like shopping.

Pay attention to print

- Help your child notice letters and words all around them.
- Connect written language to children's interests and activities. Use reading and writing for recipes, video game instructions, learning song lyrics, texting grandparents, or birthday wish lists.

Make room for reading

- Join your local library and visit often.
- Read to and with your child.
- Limit screen time to make room for reading.

Where can I find out more?

- School Reading Specialist
- PWCS VLA webpage
- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Website
- Virginia Literacy Partnership (VLP) Website
- Your child's teacher