

**Virtual Information Session FAQs for Military Child Care In Your Neighborhood,
MCCYN and MCCYN-PLUS Programs in Virginia
August 8, 2023**

About VQB5 Requirements:

What is the eligibility requirement to participate in MCCYN/MCCYN-PLUS?

DoD's policy requires community child care providers, both center and home based, receiving fee assistance to be licensed or regulated by the state; to be inspected by an oversight agency once a year; and to meet the requirements of a DoD approved national or state early learning accreditation agency.

Provider's not meeting the accreditation requirement can qualify through MCCYN-PLUS by being state licensed and participating in their states quality improvement program, which in Virginia is their Unified Measurement System, known as VQB5.

What is the Defense Department's position regarding the new state law in Virginia?

For more that fifteen years, the Defense Department has relied on nationally accredited providers in the community to fill the gap when child care is unavailable on a military installation. However, studies have shown that national accredited providers nation-wide are less than 9 percent for centers and 2 percent for family child care homes ([Child Care Aware Report, 2021](#)).

To ensure that all families have affordable access to quality choices for child care, the new Virginia state law requires all publicly funded birth to five programs participate in Virginia's Unified VQB5 System during open registration between August 15, 2023, and October 1, 2023.

While some providers may have strong concerns about enrollment with VQB5; the Defense Department has no authority to supersede Virginia's state law requirement for community providers. Military fee assistance received on behalf of a family is defined by state legislation as "publicly funded" because the federal funds received to offset the cost of child care supports program operation.

To reduce the burden to families, a one-year grace period is authorized by DoD regarding non-compliance with the new state law. MCCYN and MCCYN-PLUS approved providers will have two registration cycles until Fall 2024 to comply with the VQB5 requirement to register. In the interim fee assistance will not be terminated for any military or DoD civilian family, while the VQB5 transition is underway.

Ample communication and advance notice will be given to families and community providers upon the final decision made by DoD to terminate fee assistance because of non-compliance with Virginia's state law requirement.

How do I find out if I qualify to participate in the military fee assistance program (MCCYN/MCCYN-PLUS)?

The application process for MCCYN-PLUS is the same as MCCYN. If you are a provider interested in participating in the fee assistance program complete the application process and submit evidence to verify eligibility. Or if already registered in VQB5 provide documentation of participation. For more information please visit our website at

<https://www.childcareaware.org/standards-for-becoming-an-approved-mccyn-plus-provider-in-virginia/>

What are the standards for becoming an approved provider in Virginia?

- Enroll in VQB5 during annual registration between August 15 - October 1, 2023, through [Ready Regions](#).
- Additional standards for Virginia providers will be established prior to the first public ratings to be shared in Fall 2024.
- Effective immediately, all community providers receiving military fee assistance, regardless of accreditation status, must comply with the Virginia State requirement to participate in VQB5 by Fall 2024.

For more information about the Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5), please visit their website at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/early-childhood-care-education/quality-measurement-and-improvement-vqb5>