Requirements and Recommendations
Frequency of Administration of the
Virginia Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS)
for the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)
updated* December 2013

Required: Every child receiving CSA funds shall receive a comprehensive CANS assessment initially, with reassessments determined based on the needs of the child and family and the intensity of services provided as described below. A comprehensive assessment is required annually and when the child is discharged from CSA.

Recommended Frequency of Administration:

- If the child is solely receiving basic foster care maintenance, including day care, a reassessment is a local option based on the needs of the child and family.

- If the child is receiving solely non-clinical community-based services such as mentoring or job coaching in his/her home, relative home, regular foster home or independent living arrangement, a reassessment is done every six months or more frequently based on the needs of the child and family.

- If the child is receiving, or may need, clinical services such as substance abuse treatment, sexual offender treatment, anger management and/or a combination of two or more services such as provision of a parent aide, respite, after school programs, a reassessment is done every ninety days or more frequently based on the needs of the child and family.

- If the child is receiving, or may need, intensive in-home services, therapeutic foster care, or residential care, a reassessment is done every ninety days or more frequently based on the needs of the child and family.

- If the child is receiving special education private day services or wraparound services for students with disabilities (SPED mandate), a reassessment is done based on current local practice.

- If the child makes, or may need, a significant service change (i.e., either moving into or out of therapeutic foster care, special education private day placement, or residential care)*,* then a reassessment is done, ideally before the service change is made.

*Wording was re-formatted for clarity.