

Delivery of Preschool Services and Programs in Virginia's Public Education System

House Appropriations Committee Retreat

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Preschool Programs in Virginia

- Virginia has long been a sustained leader in supporting and developing early childhood education for four-year-olds as well as for all of elementary education children
- Research shows that well prepared children entering kindergarten perform better than those who lack any formative skills
- As educational programs as grown so has the focus on student achievement and assessments
 - Virginia developed the Standards of Learning (SOL) years before any federal requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act



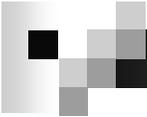
Federally Funded Programs

- Virginia has participated in a variety of federal preschool programs since the mid 1960's
- Primarily, these programs provide funding to support low-income at-risk children to help them meet state academic standards and to provide support services
- Title I, Part A is the largest federal program supporting K-12 education - \$207.8 million in FY 2007
 - All 136 school divisions participate in this federal program and have at least 1 school that receives funding
 - 47 divisions also include 4,548 Pre-K children in program
- Title I, Part B focuses on young children, especially those from low-income families, with reading deficiencies in Pre-K to grade 3 - \$21.3 million in FY 2007
 - 43 divisions will receive funding for 87 schools



Federally Funded Programs

- Head Start a comprehensive child development program which serves children from age 3 to 5, pregnant women, and their families - \$98.8 million in FY 2006
 - It's goal is to increase the school readiness of at-risk children in low-income families
 - Virginia has 54 Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs that serve over 16,000 children of which over 8,500 are 4 years old
- Special Education:
 - Grants to States - provides grants to divisions offset the costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities, ages 3 to 21 - \$261.8 million in FY 2007
 - Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities - provides grants to divisions to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities, ages 3 through 5 - \$9.1 million in FY 2007
 - Virginia reported 6,025 four-year-olds enrolled in special education programs last year



Virginia's Efforts to Address School Readiness

- In the late 1980's, the General Assembly began looking at additional ways to improve students' success - years ahead of what now is becoming the national trend:
 - Focused on the needs of those children having the most difficulties with early learning and school readiness
 - Research has demonstrated that high-quality early education programs can have long-term positive implications on later school success for at-risk students
- Directed the state Board of Education, to develop a long-range plan that would address school readiness
- As a part of the current Comprehensive Plan, the Board of Education adopted a number program objectives which would help ensure that young children are ready for entering school:
 - Support the Virginia Preschool Initiative
 - Establish academic standards to prepare pre-school students to be ready to successfully enter into kindergarten
 - Cooperate with other entities involved in developing and implementing Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Standards for Literacy and Mathematics
 - Support federal programs: Title I, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education programs
 - DOE is responsible for allocating these funds to and coordinating with school divisions for programs targeted towards at-risk four-year-old children

Four-Year-Old Programs

Virginia Preschool Initiative



- As an outcome of the legislative work completed in the early 1990's, the Virginia's Preschool Initiative (VPI) or more commonly referred to as the At-Risk Four-Year-Olds was approved for funding in FY 1996
- The program focus is to serve those children who are at-risk of school failure and who do not receive any Head Start services
- VPI program is now designed to meet the criteria and standards in the Foundation Blocks for Early Learning that establish a measurable range of skills and knowledge needed for at-risk four-year-olds to be successful in kindergarten
- School divisions are required to use Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) - Pre-K test for literacy screening in both the fall and in the spring to assess student learning and readiness for kindergarten

Four-Year-Old Programs

Virginia Preschool Initiative



- Participation in program is incentive-based and voluntary
- School divisions must submit an annual plan for their program that includes these service requirements:
 - Quality preschool education
 - Curriculum focused on the learning needs of young children
 - Maximum class size is 18 students
 - Qualified staff and develop a plan for staff training
 - Minimum of half-day program and a full school year
 - Plan for home-school communication
 - Assessment procedures:
 - Foundation Blocks for Early Learning and PALS
 - Comprehensive child health services
 - Comprehensive social services
 - Transportation
 - Parental involvement

Four-Year-Old Programs Virginia Preschool Initiative



- FY 2006 - school divisions receive 100 percent funding for the at-risk four-year-olds in VPI who are not being served by Head Start
- FY 2007 - funding was increased from \$5,400 to \$5,700 per eligible student, with costs shared between the state and school divisions based on their composite index
- Localities can use state funding to:
 - Establish comprehensive preschool programs in public schools or community sites
 - Expand existing programs to serve more children
 - Upgrade existing programs to meet criteria for preschool programs for unserved children
 - Purchase preschool programs and services for at-risk four-year-old children from existing providers

Four-Year-Old Programs

Virginia Preschool Initiative



- Funding formula uses several components to determine the state's allocation to each school division:
 - Virginia Employment Commission's estimate for total number of children 0-5 in each locality – use 20% of total to represent the four-year-olds
 - Percentage of students in the free lunch program as a proxy for the number of 'at-risk' student slots
 - Students being served by Head Start services
 - Composite Index
- Although state uses free-lunch as a proxy to determine the number of student slots for VPI, school divisions use their own definition of at-risk to determine student selection criteria:
 - Lives in poverty or homeless
 - Limited English proficiency
 - Health or developmental problems, low birth weight, substance abuse
 - Parent is a school dropout, has limited education, or chronically ill
 - Family is under stress - poverty, unemployment, homelessness, episodes of violence, crime or incarceration

History of Appropriations and Actual Expenditures



	Appropriation	Actual Expenditures (based on enrollment)	Percent of Available Funding Spent	Percent of Students Slots Funded
<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	(\$ in millions)			
1995 – 1996	\$10.3	\$8.0	77.7%	30%
1996 – 1997	\$15.2	\$14.8	97.4%	60%
1997 – 1998	\$16.9	\$16.9	100.0%	60%
1998 – 1999	\$18.9	\$18.9	100.0%	60%
1999 – 2000	\$19.1	\$19.1	100.0%	60%
2000 – 2001	\$21.5	\$18.5	86.0%	60%
2001 – 2002	\$20.6	\$18.7	90.8%	60%
2002 – 2003	\$19.3	\$18.1	93.8%	60%
2003 – 2004	\$19.4	\$18.2	93.8%	60%
2004 – 2005	\$47.4	\$34.9	73.6%	90%
2005 – 2006	\$53.2	\$38.5	82.6%	100%
<i>Budget Estimates</i>				
2006 - 2007	\$62.2	\$49.6	79.7%	100%
2007 - 2008	\$62.8	\$50.5	80.4%	100%

History of Participation Rates in VPI



	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Number of Localities	136	136	136	136	136	136
Localities Eligible for Funding	100	97	97	115	117	122
Participating Localities	75	75	75	90	92	100
Eligible, but Not Participating	25	22	22	25	25	22
Localities Not Eligible	36	39	39	21	19	14
Total 4-Yr-Olds Unserved by Head Start	13,230	12,185	12,228	16,872	17,042	18,730
% of Unserved Students Eligible for Funding	60%	60%	60%	90%	100%	100%
Estimated Number of Students Eligible	7,938	7,311	7,337	15,185	17,042	18,730
Actual Number of Students Participating	5,966	5,823	5,858	10,318	11,237	12,249
% of Eligible Students Participating	75.2%	79.6%	79.8%	67.9%	65.9%	65.4%



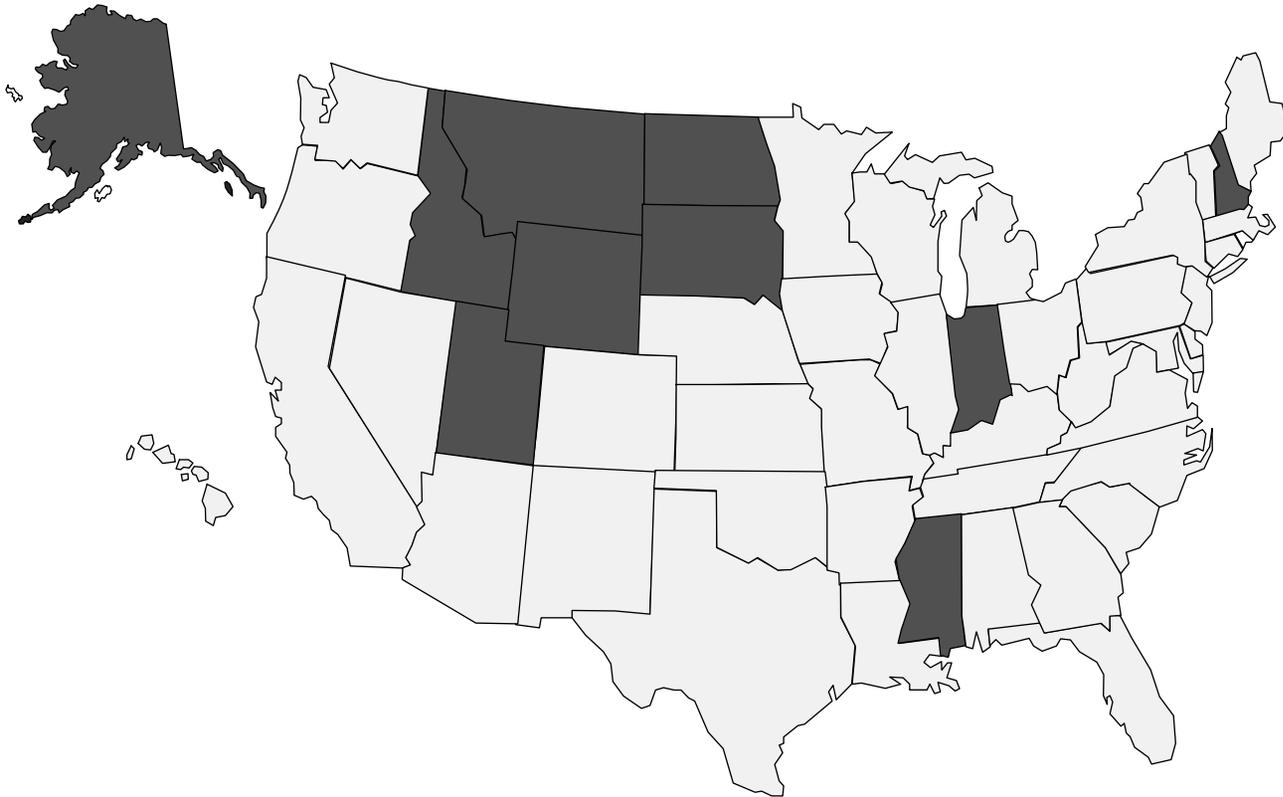
Summary of Preschool in Virginia

- In total, Virginia's preschool programs have a student capacity for 37,805 four-year-olds:
 - Virginia Preschool Initiative – 18,730
 - Head Start – 8,502
 - Special Education – 6,025
 - Title I – 4,548
- However, some school divisions have chosen not participate in the program
 - Shortages of teachers, classroom space, costs
- Of the 100 participating divisions, about half do not fully participate, leaving 5,400 slots for students unused
 - Arlington, Fairfax County, Henrico, Virginia Beach



How Does Virginia Compare to Neighboring SREB States

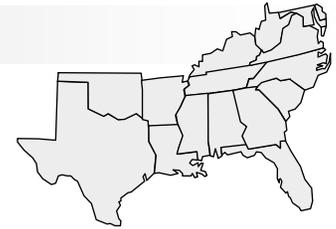
National Status of Pre-K Programs in 2006



- 40 States with a state-funded Pre-K program
- 10 States do not offer a state-funded Pre-K program:
AK, ID, IN, MS, MT, NH, ND, SD, UT, WY

Pre-Kindergarten Programs

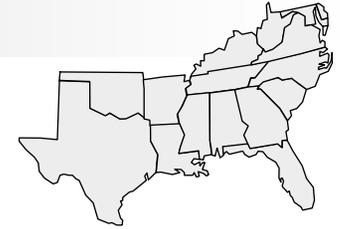
What are the SREB States Doing?



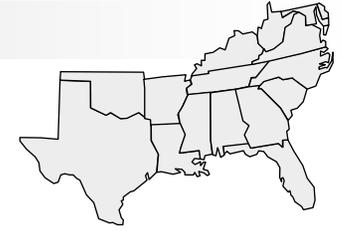
- About half of them established some type of pre-kindergarten initiative after Virginia began its program 10 years ago
- 15 out of the 16 SREB states offer a Pre-K program
 - Mississippi currently does not offer a state program
- 9 states offer a Pre-K program to 100% school divisions
- All of the state programs are full academic school year
- However, the length of the school day varies:
 - 15 states are evenly divided between providing a full-day, part-day, or local choice
 - Virginia offers local option to school divisions:
 - 91 have full-day
 - 9 have part-day

Pre-Kindergarten Programs

What are the SREB States Doing?

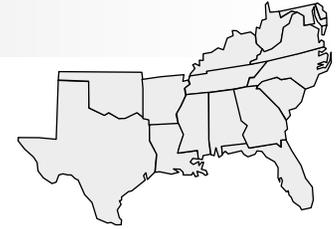


- Minimum staff qualifications:
 - All require either a state certification, BA, or BS for teachers
 - VA requires license and certification in Pre-K-3 or Pre-K-6
 - All require in-service training for teachers
 - Requirements for instructional aides / assistants range from no specific training to a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate
 - VA allows locality to determine qualifications



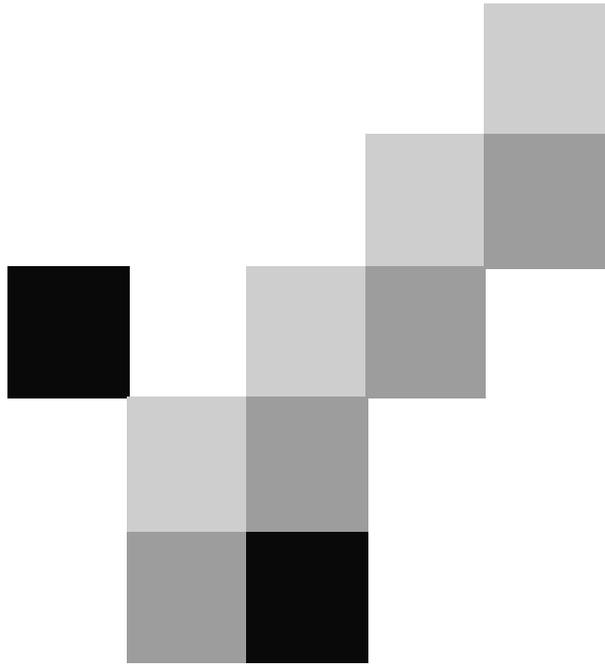
Pre-Kindergarten Programs What are the SREB States Doing?

- Typical class sizes range from 18-20 students:
 - 12 states have 20 student maximum class size and a staff ratio of 10:1 (teacher and aide)
 - AL, NC and VA have 18 student maximum and a staff ratio of 9:1 (teacher and aide)
 - TX has 22 student maximum and a staff ratio of 22:1 (teacher)
- Pre-K programs also provide children enrolled with various kinds of non-educational ‘wrap-around’ services for vision, hearing, health, immunization, developmental and behavior screenings
 - Majority of states, including VA, offer 5 or more



Pre-Kindergarten Programs What are the SREB States Doing?

- FY 2005 per student state funding for Pre-K programs ranged from \$721 up to \$5,816 per child enrolled
 - VA ranked in the middle at \$3,420 (state share only) for a reported count of 10,318 enrolled preschoolers
- Total K-12 spending from all fund sources also has a wide range from \$6,808 up to \$12,386 per student
 - VA is the fourth highest state - \$10,209



Student Achievement and Assessments

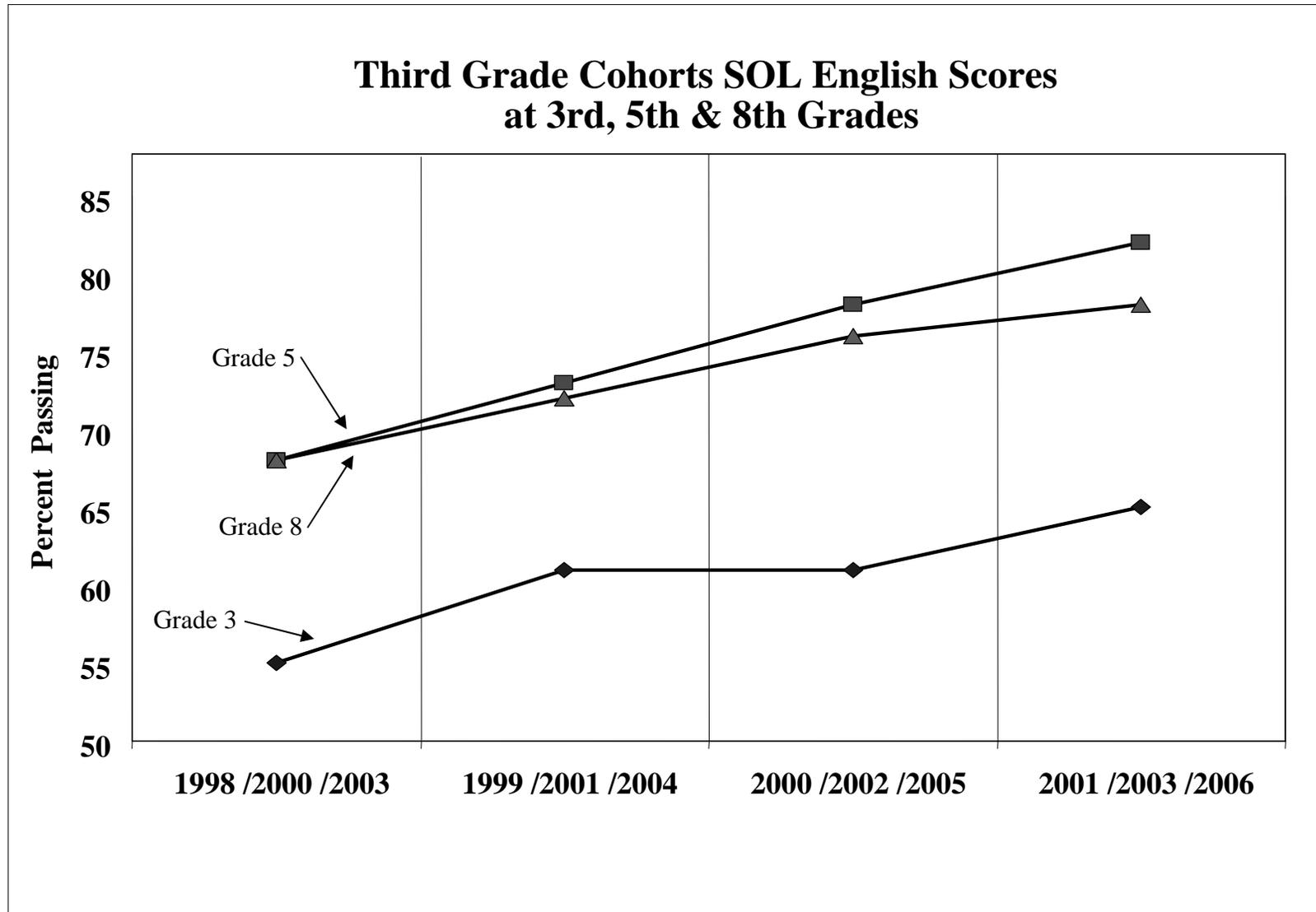


Standards of Learning (SOL) English Reading Test

- Currently, we don't have any longitudinal data on success of children from preschool to the first benchmark of the SOL
- However, it's clear that student achievement by the third grade is improving
- The passing score for this past spring's 3rd grade English reading exam increased from 77% to 84% over last year's
 - In turn, students needing remediation decreased from 20,400 in 2005 to 14,000 this past spring
- Third grade English reading SOL exam is considered an accurate predictor of a student's future success
- If growth in the success rate continues, we can expect to see a pass rate around 90% next spring
 - Leaving the number of children needing additional help under 9,000 statewide

Current Assessments

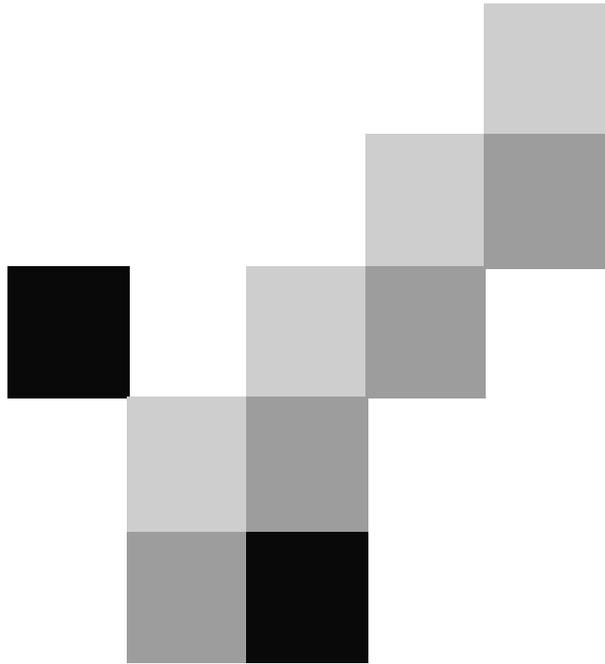
Standards of Learning English Reading Test



Current Assessments

Standards of Learning English Reading Test

3rd Graders					5th Graders (Same 3rd grade Cohort - 2 years later)				
School Year	Sept 30th Membership	SOL % Pass	# Pass	# Fail	School Year	Sept 30th Membership	SOL % Pass	# Pass	# Fail
1997-1998	87,396	55	48,068	39,328	1999-2000	87,933	68	59,794	28,139
1998-1999	89,857	61	54,813	35,044	2000-2001	92,300	73	67,379	24,921
1999-2000	90,494	61	55,201	35,293	2001-2002	92,693	78	72,301	20,392
2000-2001	91,217	65	59,291	31,926	2002-2003	92,388	82	75,758	16,630
2001-2002	90,480	72	65,146	25,334	2003-2004	91,858	85	78,079	13,779
2002-2003	89,707	72	64,589	25,118	2004-2005	91,356	85	77,653	13,703
2003-2004	88,857	71	63,088	25,769	2005-2006	90,379	87	78,630	11,749
2004-2005	88,255	77	67,956	20,299	-	-	-	-	-
2005-2006	87,834	84	73,781	14,053	-	-	-	-	-

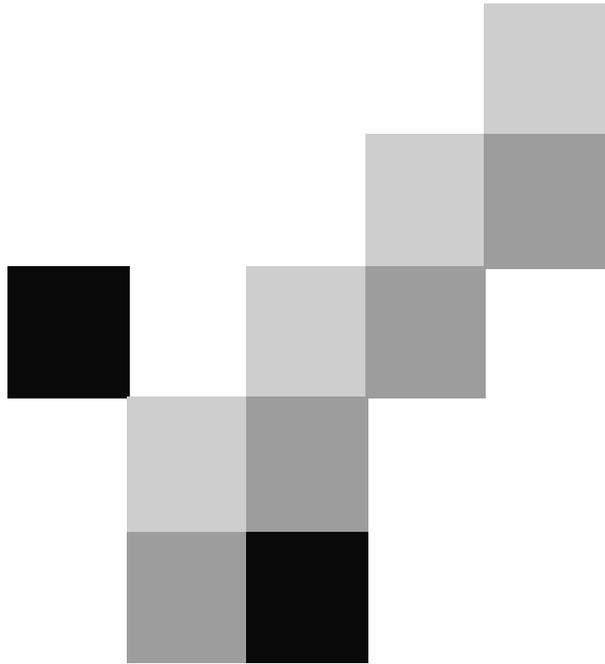


Summary & Conclusions



Summary & Conclusions

- Virginia has a number of programs to assist at-risk preschool children in obtaining early learning opportunities which prepare them for kindergarten
 - Day care assistance for low-income working families
 - Quality programs to enhance day care with early learning opportunities
 - Preschool programs focused on school readiness and early learning concepts
- Most of the research demonstrates greater value in focusing state and federal preschool programs and services on at-risk low-income children who lag behind peers when beginning school
- Based on this year's participation rates for school divisions in the VPI program, approximately one third of the VPI seats went unfilled
 - Several school divisions do not participate, and several school division are not currently using all of their student slots
- The SOL test cohorts since 1998 have consistently shown improvements over time, which would indicate that the current curriculum and programs are effective in promoting student success
 - Virginia does not track at-risk students' progress and how they specific or individually score on the SOL tests



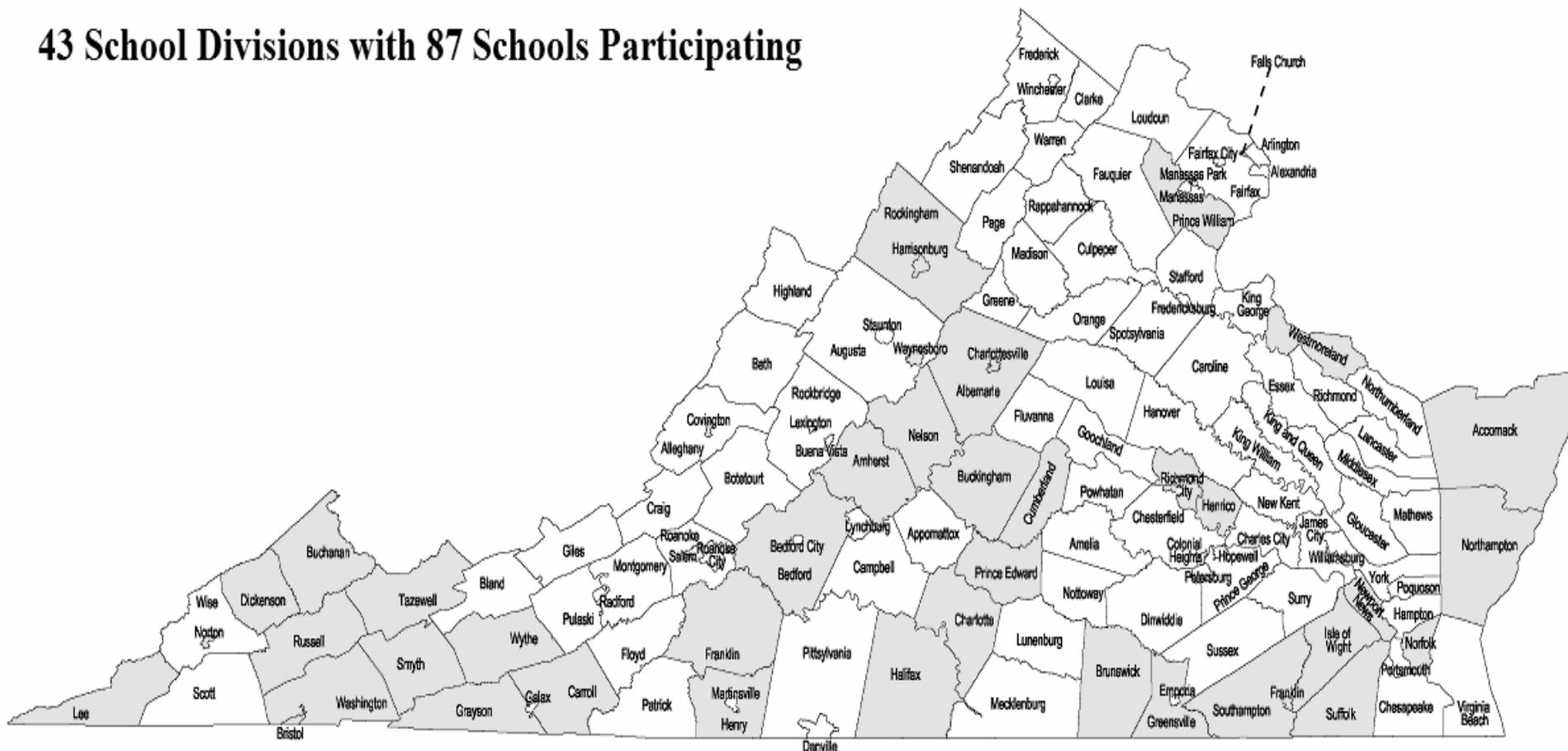
Appendix A

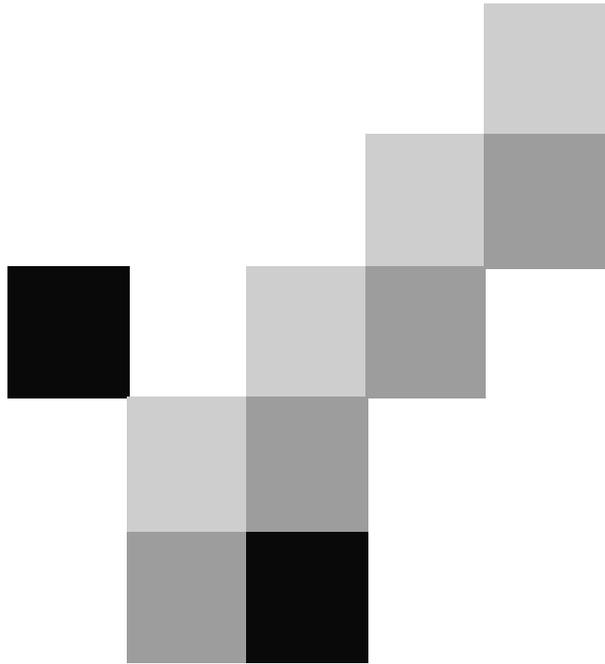
School Divisions' Participation by Program

Title I, Part B, Subpart 1 - Reading First Grants for FY 2007



43 School Divisions with 87 Schools Participating

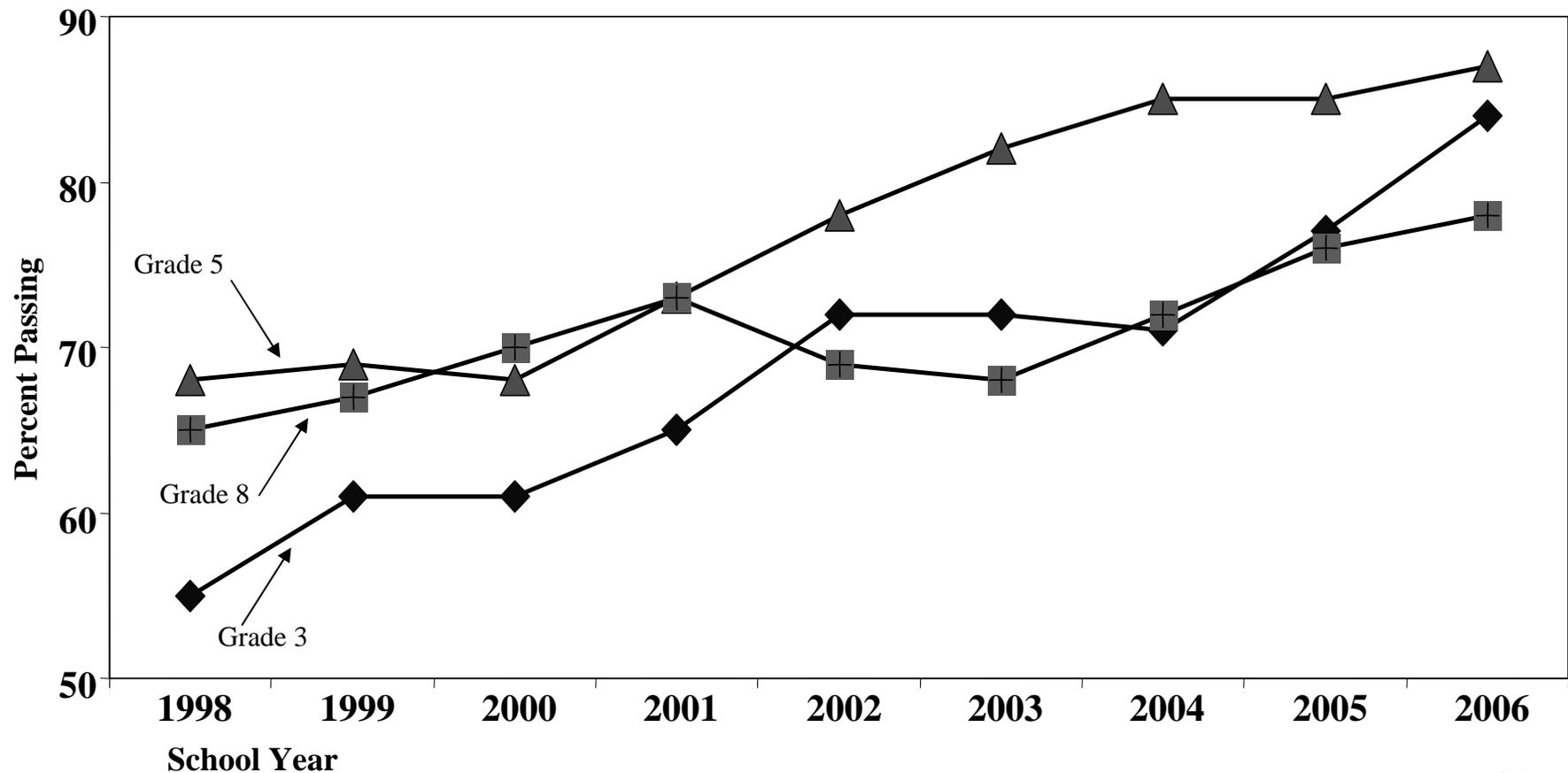




**Appendix B
Test Results for
SOL English Reading, PALS
& Head Start NRS**

Current Assessments for Standards of Learning

SOL English Reading Test Scores



VPI Students Screened with PALS-Pre-K Fall and Spring: 2005-2006

PALS-Pre-K Task (maximum score)	Total # of Students Assessed	Fall 2005		Spring 2006	
		Students Assessed <u>Above</u> "Passing" Benchmark	Students Assessed <u>Below</u> "Passing" Benchmark	Students Assessed <u>Above</u> "Passing" Benchmark	Students Assessed <u>Below</u> "Passing" Benchmark
Name writing (7)	6,852	42%	58%	92%	8%
Alphabet recognition (26)	6,800	33%	67%	86%	14%
Beginning sound awareness (10)	6,745	47%	53%	88%	12%
Print and Word Awareness (10)	6,807	32%	68%	83%	17%
Rhyme (10)	6,781	41%	59%	85%	15%
Nursery Rhyme Awareness (10)	6,815	41%	59%	90%	10%

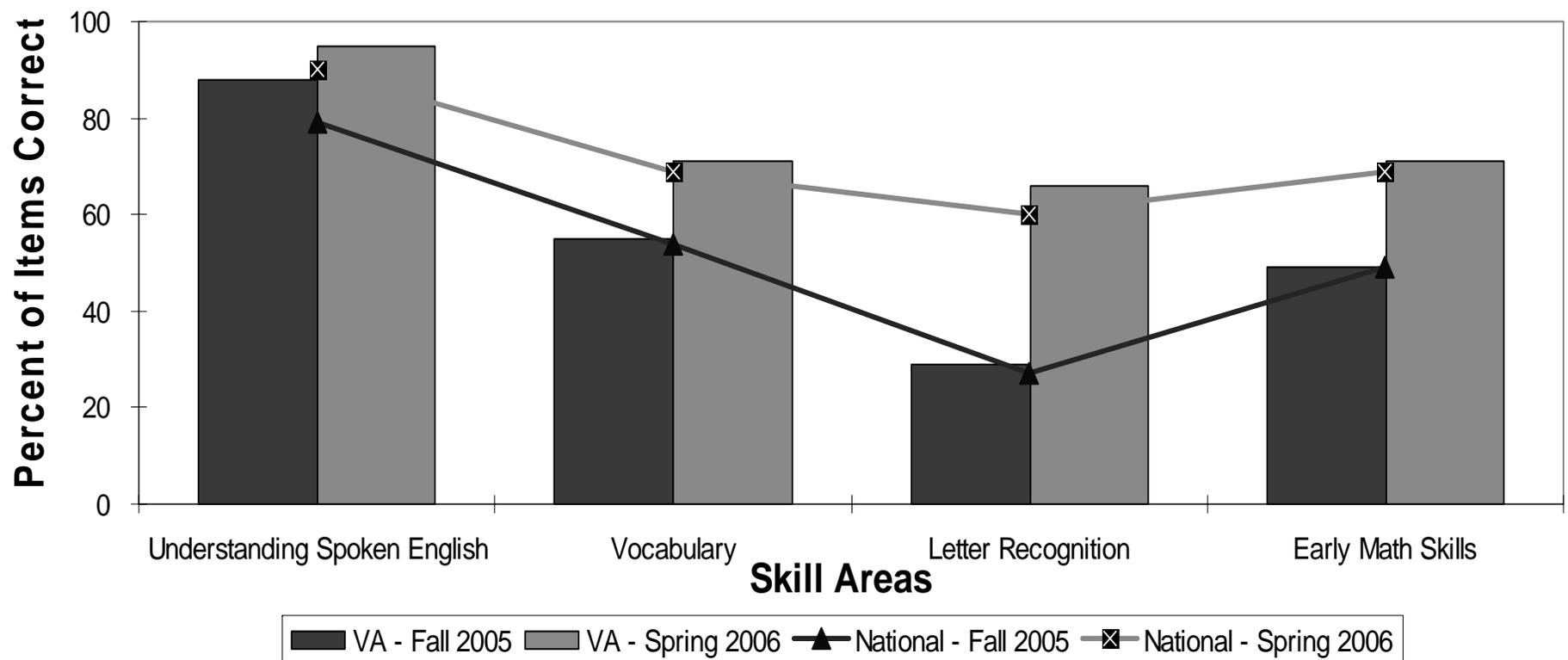
Kindergarten Students Screened with PALS-K Fall and Spring: 2005-2006

Pre-K Programs Students Attended Prior to Kindergarten	Fall 2005			Spring 2006		
	Total # of Students Assessed	Percent of Student Assessed ABOVE "Passing"	Percent of Student Assessed BELOW "Passing"	Total # of Students Assessed	Percent of Student Assessed ABOVE "Passing"	Percent of Student Assessed Below "Passing"
Even Start	20	80%	20%	20	80%	20%
Head Start	1,376	81%	19%	1,361	82%	18%
Other	1,023	89%	11%	1,005	87%	13%
Title I	1,528	89%	11%	1,509	86%	14%
VPI	4,853	87%	13%	4,782	87%	13%
VPI and Title I	884	89%	11%	872	87%	13%
YMCA	409	82%	18%	409	84%	16%
Pre-K Status Unknown	71,321	82%	18%	72,655	86%	14%
TOTAL	81,414	82%	18%	82,613	86%	14%

Federally Funded Programs: Head Start Assessment Results Specific to Four Year Olds



Fall to Spring Growth for Virginia vs National Scores (2005 to 2006)



Head Start in Virginia



- In Virginia, there are 54 Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs serving children and families
 - 22 are operated by Community Action Agencies (CAA)
 - 34 are operated through school districts, child care centers and non-profit organizations
- In total, programs received \$98 million in federal funding last year
- For each dollar spent in Head Start, 80 cents comes from federal funding and the remaining 20 cents - a required match - comes from the operating program grantee
- Total average cost per child equaled \$7,540 for FY 2006

Fiscal Year	Federal Funding @ 80%	Locality (Grantee) Funding @ 20% Match	Total Funding	Actual Enrollment (0-5)	Actual Enrollment 4 Year Olds
1997	54,571,000	13,642,750	68,213,750	13,970	8,016
1998	61,960,000	15,490,000	77,450,000	15,015	8,388
1999	66,246,000	16,561,500	82,807,500	15,509	8,769
2000	74,487,000	18,621,750	93,108,750	15,062	7,979
2001	89,889,625	22,472,406	112,362,031	16,647	8,801
2002	95,366,343	23,841,586	119,207,929	16,325	8,588
2003	96,213,748	24,053,437	120,267,185	17,084	9,119
2004	98,142,388	24,535,597	122,677,985	17,513	9,121
2005	98,833,397	24,708,349	123,541,746	16,526	8,549
2006	98,833,397	24,708,349	123,541,746	16,383	8,502