

Governor Kaine's Proposed Amendments
to the 2006-08 Budget
to support

Preschool Pilots

Presentation to the
House Appropriations Committee

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Secretary of Education

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Overview of presentation

- Context for pilots
- Business and Council perspective
 - Katherine Elam Busser
Senior Vice President
Capital One
- Pilot design and selection
 - Kathy Glazer
Executive Director, Governor's Working Group
on Early Childhood Initiatives
Department of Social Services

The education continuum

- Comprehensive, integrated approach to education (P-16)
- Key transition points
 - ★ Into kindergarten (school readiness)
 - Learning to read by third grade (reading to learn)
 - Middle to high school transition
 - College and workplace readiness

Existing preschool programs

- Existing programs for at-risk children
 - Virginia Preschool Initiative
 - Head Start
 - Title I and Special Education
 - Local initiatives
- Programs are generally effective but do not reach all children at risk of educational failure

Existing programs (continued)

- Despite effective programs, too many children are not ready for school
- One third of estimated at-risk four-year-olds not served
- Lack of readiness is not limited to those identified as at-risk through state funding formula (based on free lunch eligibility)

Existing state program: VPI

- Responsibility for evaluation is at local level
 - Arlington County: most comprehensive study, dramatic results in closing achievement gap for low-income and black children and English language learners
 - Other studies: Norfolk, Lynchburg, Williamsburg-James City County, Albemarle and Newport News
 - all have document gains
- Existing statewide samples indicate that VPI is effective for those students who participate

Start Strong Council

- Council appointed by Governor
 - Business leaders
 - State and local elected officials
 - Teachers and administrators
 - Public and private providers of early childhood education

Key council recommendations

- Develop quality ratings system as continuous quality improvement tool
- Pilot promising strategies to improve quality and delivery of services
- Strengthen early childhood education workforce through education and training

