Pre-K Proposal

2008-2010

Secretary Thomas R. Morris
Presentation to
House Appropriations Committee

January 16, 2008

Goal

- Ensure that more at-risk 4-year-olds have access to voluntary high quality preschool services.

Information utilized in planning proposal

- Start Strong Council
- JLARC Report
  - Pre-K works and VPI is effective
  - Barriers are cost and space
- Initial Evaluation of Pre-K Pilots
  - Mixed delivery system is working

Objective of proposal

Address issues of:

- **Access** – policies addressing cost and space
- **Quality with Accountability** – QRIS, scholarships, community grants

To address the challenge of cost for localities…

- Localities may choose a per pupil rate from $5,700 to $6,790
- A cap on the local match, based on the composite index, so that the state will pay at least half of the cost

Every locality…

- is ensured funding for a minimum of one preschool classroom
  - Base of 9 slots

Raise state allocation formula…

- from eligibility for free lunch to free *and* reduced-price lunch

To address the challenge of space for localities…

- Partnership with private partners for at least 10% of any new slots

To address the need for stronger program administration…

- Adds funds and staff at DOE for program administration, technical assistance, and evaluation

QRIS

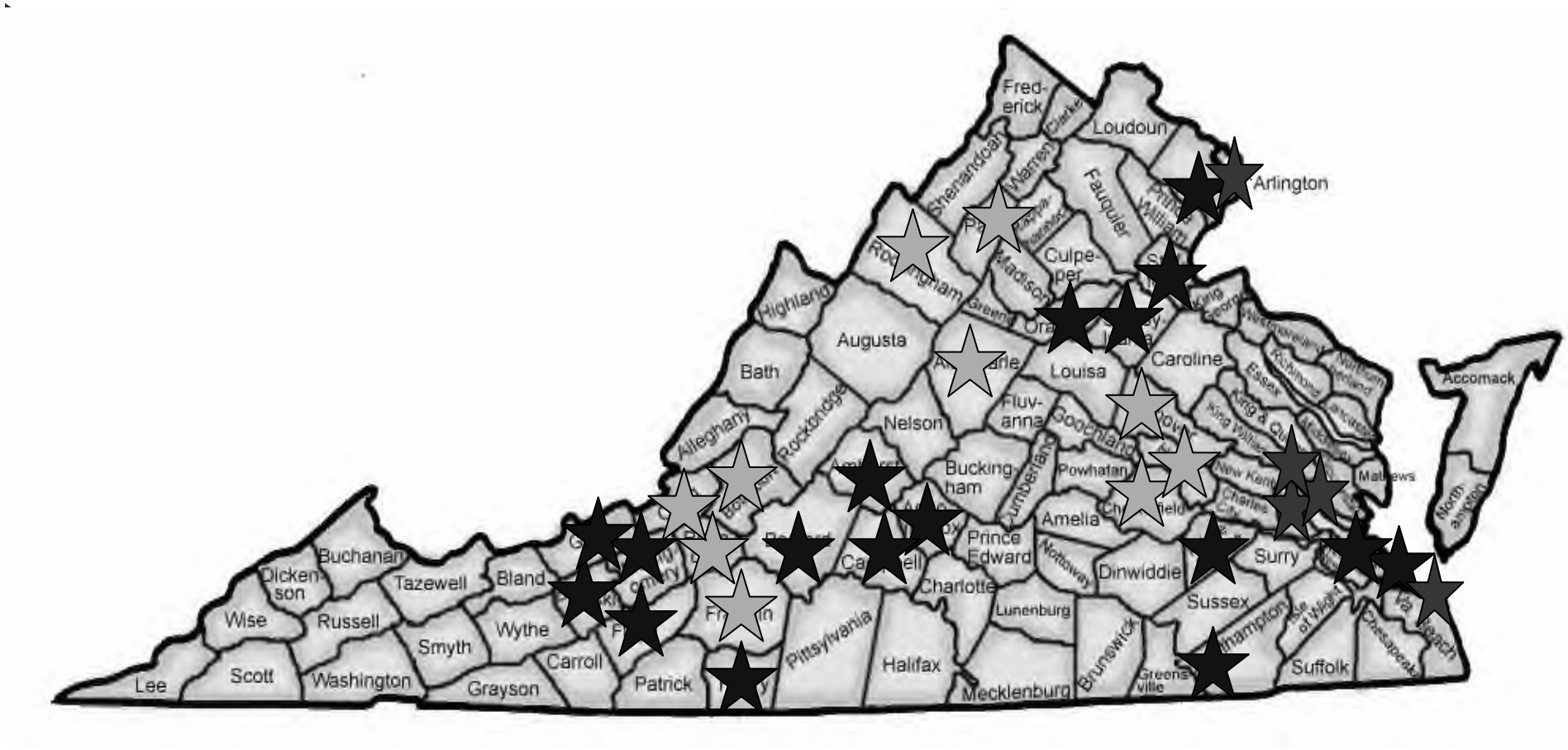
- Will measure and assign a quality rating to public and private programs
  - Assessments conducted by trained, independent raters using validated instruments
  - Mentors assist with improving quality of classroom settings
  - QRIS= continuous quality improvement system for providers and consumer education tool for parents

Early Childhood Workforce Development

- To support enhancement of skills and expansion of workforce
- Degree attainment at community colleges and 4-year colleges
- Specialized Early Childhood training

To facilitate local councils

- Funds to the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation for grants to local communities
- Support 14 new communities; sustain 15 existing communities
- Will match public funds 2-1 with local and private funds



Current VECF Grant Communities

Expand voluntary high quality preschool…

- to serve nearly 20,000 4-year-olds by the end of the biennium

- Current enrollment 13,125
- FY10 19,261

Total Cost of Pre-K Initiatives

Component	FY09	FY10	TOTAL
Pupil Cost	$15.0	$15.0 *$14.9 NGF*	$29.9
VPI Administration	$0.34	$0.34	$0.7
QRIS	$1.3	$3.3	$4.6
Workforce Dev.	$1.0	$3.0	$4.0
VECF	$.5	$1.5	$2.0
Total Additional Funds (GF,NGF)	**$18.04**	**$38.04**	**$56.08**

$ in millions