



Virginia Preschool Initiative-**PLUS**

Virginia Preschool Initiative Joint Subcommittee

June 11, 2015

School Readiness

“School Readiness” describes the capabilities of children, their families, schools, and communities that will best promote student success in kindergarten and beyond.

“Ready Children” describes a child who is prepared for school socially, personally, physically, and intellectually within the developmental domains addressed in Virginia’s *Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds*.

Importance of VPI

Differential Effects of Preschool: Curry School of Education (2011)

- VPI participation is associated with a **reduced** likelihood of repeating kindergarten.
- Literacy effect is maintained through **first grade** for African American and Hispanic students and students with disabilities.

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (2007)

- Analysis showed **strong association** between VPI participation and PALS (literacy) scores.
- More than 91 percent of principals surveyed cited positive effects of students' participation in preschool continuing through at least first grade.

Phonological Literacy Awareness Screening (PALS)

- The impact of participation in the VPI program can be seen in results of the **fall 2014 PALS** that was administered to **kindergarten** students.
- **93 %** of the students who participated in a VPI program were **ready** for kindergarten and did **not** need intervention services in kindergarten the next school year.
- Conversely, **71.8 %** of the students who did not participate in any PreK program were ready for kindergarten. Resulting in **28.2%** of students in this category needing some type of intervention in kindergarten.

U.S. Department of Education

Preschool Grants

Two types of grants:

- **Development Grants** are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of *four-year-olds* and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTTT-ELC) grant.
- **Expansion Grants** are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of *four-year-olds* or have received an RTTT-ELC grant. (*Virginia*)

VPI+ Overview

Year 1 Federal Award Amount

- \$ 17,500,000 (3 additional years)
- January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Lead Agency

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Partnerships and Support

- Eleven Divisions and local public-private partnerships
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation/Smart Beginnings
- University of Virginia's Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL)
- Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

VPI+ Selection

Criteria for School Division Selection

1. Poverty Concentration: Percentage of students eligible for free/reduced lunch
 2. Poverty Magnitude: Number of Title I schools
 3. Unmet Need: Number of unused VPI slots
 4. Unmet Need: Percentage of students not meeting the PALS-K benchmark
- **Participating School Divisions:** *Brunswick County, Chesterfield County, Fairfax County, Giles County, Henrico County, Norfolk City, Petersburg City, Prince William County, Richmond City, Sussex County, Winchester City*

Model for New VPI+ Classrooms

- Full-day program
- Highly qualified teachers
- Developmentally-appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based curricula and formative assessments
- Evidence-based professional development
- Coaching for implementation of best practices for early learning environments
- Partnerships with private preschool providers

Model for New VPI+ Classrooms

- Community partnerships to promote family access to services with targeted outreach for hard-to-reach families
- Accessible comprehensive services provided
- Summative assessments
- Virginia Star Quality Initiative – Virginia’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Model for Improved PreK Classrooms

An “improved” state preschool program slot is a slot that already existed at the time of Virginia’s grant application and that will be improved by any of the following allowable improvements using grant funds:

- extending programs from half-day to full-day;
- decreasing child-to-staff ratios;
- employing and compensating a teacher with a bachelor’s degree;
- providing evidence-based professional development and coaching; or
- providing comprehensive services.



By the end of the grant, over 13,000 more preschool students will be served in new or improved high-quality preschool slots.



By the end of the grant term, the goal is for VPI+ students to exceed state and national averages on all measures for children who are economically disadvantaged, with a steady increase in meeting each benchmark annually.

VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- VPI+ state coordinator, grants and reports manager, and preschool program specialist have been hired.
- VPI+ technical assistance webinars for school divisions were held on January 27, March 2, March 3, March 6, March 25, May 20, and May 21.
- VPI+ Implementation Team has been established and the first quarterly meeting was held on April 30, 2015.
- Virginia's budget and Statement of Work and school divisions' budget summaries have been submitted to the United States Departments of Education and Health and Human Services for review.

VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- VPI+ grants have been awarded to 11 school divisions through the Notification of Grant Award (NOGA) process.
- Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the VPI+ curriculum and formative assessment was posted on April 10, 2015. Proposals were due to VDOE on May 11, 2015.
- RFPs for the program evaluation and summative assessments was posted on May 8, 2015. Proposals are due to VDOE on June 8, 2015.
- A VPI+ Cross-Organizational Data Team has been established and had its first meeting on April 9, 2015.

VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

Proposed Number of New and Improved Slots* as Reported by Divisions April 10, 2015								
	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019	
	New	Improved	New	Improved	New	Improved	New	Improved
Brunswick	18	48	36	48	36	48	36	48
Chesterfield	144	112	160	112	160	112	160	112
Fairfax	70	-	70	190	70	240	70	290
Giles	36	27	36	27	36	27	36	27
Henrico	180	500	180	500	180	500	180	500
Norfolk	207	252	207	252	207	252	207	252
Petersburg	90	180	108	180	108	180	108	180
Prince William	144	72	144	72	160	72	160	72
Richmond City	160	600	216	600	270	600	270	600
Sussex	27	-	27	-	27	-	18	-
Winchester	108	36	108	36	108	36	108	36
Total Slots	1,184	1,827	1,292	2,017	1,362	2,067	1,353	2,117



*Number of improved slots are estimated and may vary depending on number of VPI+ eligible children in the improved classrooms.

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

VPI Purpose

- The purpose of the state funded VPI program is to provide quality preschool programs for **at-risk four-year-olds** who are unserved by Head Start.

FY2015 Participation

- Calculated Number of VPI slots: 25,746
- Actual Number of VPI slots used: 18,250
- Total Actual State Share of VPI cost: \$68.8m
- State funds are paid directly to school divisions or local governments, which have responsibility for the programs.

VPI Challenges

School divisions'/localities' reasons for partial use of VPI allocation or nonparticipation include:

- difficulty or inability to meet the required local match;
- insufficient space to house additional preschool classrooms in school facilities; and
- minimal number of students eligible for the program by state allocation formula.



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VPI+ provides the opportunity to increase preschool access, quality, and impact while providing preschool programs through participating school divisions and in partnerships with private providers.

VDOE Early Childhood Education:

Dr. Billy Haun, Chief Academic Officer

Billy.Haun@doe.virginia.gov

Dr. Christine Harris, Director, Office of Humanities and
Early Childhood Christine.Harris@doe.virginia.gov

Mrs. Cheryl Strobel, Associate Director, VPI State Program

Cheryl.Strobel@doe.virginia.gov

Dr. Mark Allan, Coordinator, VPI+ Federal Grant Program

Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov