VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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# COVID AND PREK-12 EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA

*Presented to*
The House Appropriations Committee
October 18, 2021
*and*
The Senate Finance Committee
October 19, 2021

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# 2022-24 Rebenchmarking

# 2022-2024 Rebenchmarking

**Estimated state cost\* of 2022-2024 biennial Direct Aid rebenchmarking is $331.0 million**

Inputs increasing costs:
- Prevailing salaries
- Support positions
- Health Care
- Inflation

Inputs decreasing costs:
- Non-personal support
- Pupil transportation

Remaining updates include sales tax estimates, Lottery proceeds estimates, enrollment updates, fringe benefits, and the local composite index.

\*Includes the retention of FY22 no loss funding as a placeholder in the base that will be readjusted after Fall enrollment data is finalized per discussions with DPB.

# 2021-2022 School Year

# Instruction in 2021-2022

**In-person instruction available to all learners per SB1303 (2021)**

As of 9/20/2021, every public school in the Commonwealth is now open for full-time in-person learning.

Remote and virtual learning options made available at the discretion of the division

Additional full- and part-time options available statewide via Virtual Virginia

# Health Guidance for Fall 2021



Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Virginia PreK-12 Schools

**2021 VDH-VDOE Guidance prioritizes in-person instruction regardless of community transmission level.**

It provides 5 Steps to guide decision-making about prevention strategies and school operations.

Additionally, a Public Health Order from the Commissioner of Health requires masks indoors on school property.

ViSSTA is a federally funded, optional screening testing program available to PreK-12 Schools supported by VDH and VDOE.

# Enrollment Trends

# Enrollment Trends and ADM Projections

## March 31, 2021 Average Daily Membership (ADM)

| Chapter 1289 (2020) based on September 30, 2019 data | Chapter 552 (2021) based on September 30, 2020 data | Final Enrollment Count for March 31, 2021 ADM |
|---|---|---|
| **1,257,189** | **1,213,093** | **1,210,463** |

March 31, 2021 actual = (46,726) from Chapter 1289 projection

## 2021-22 fall enrollment is collected as of 9/30; statewide enrollment data will be available in November

# Enrollment Declines - Fall 2020

Changes in enrollment between 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years
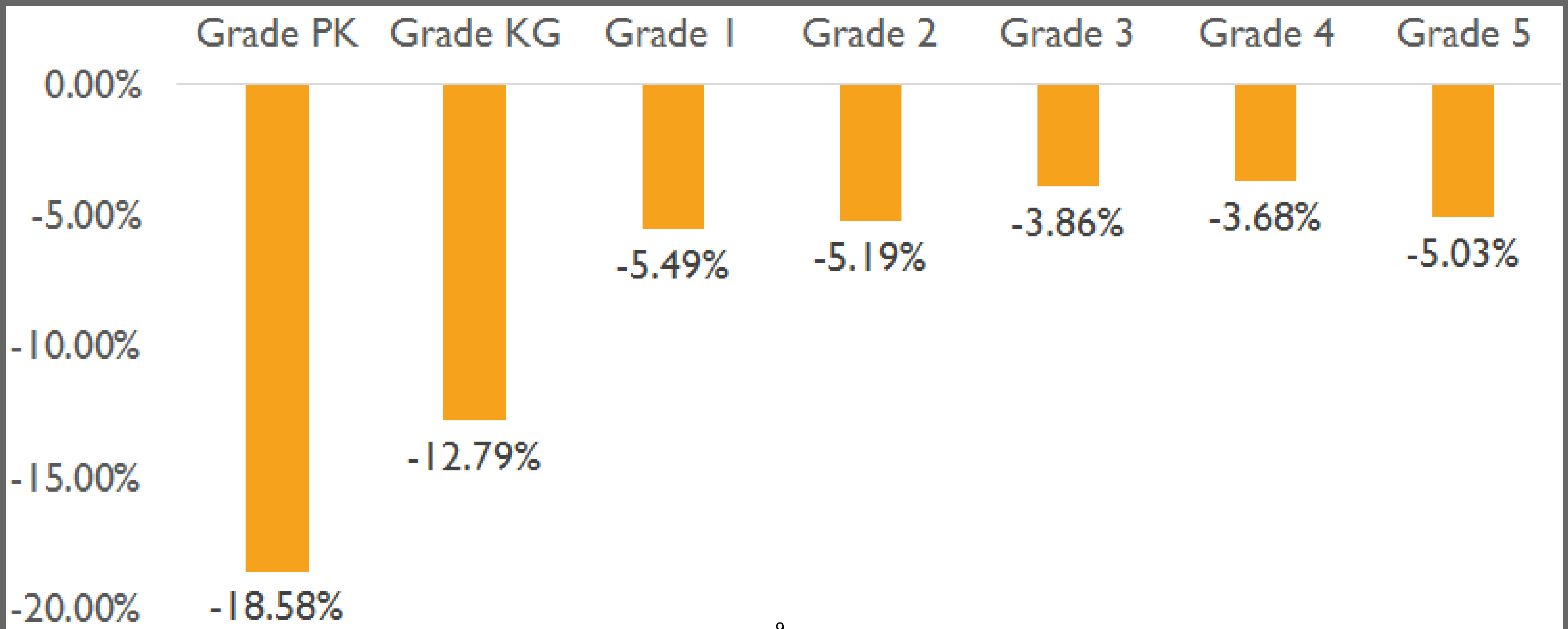
# Missing Preschoolers

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted the enrollment of all early childhood care and education programs. Enrollment drops led to challenges for families and will likely impact school readiness in future years.

- **Head Start -** Enrollment was down 30% for the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Virginia Preschool Initiative -** Enrollment numbers were down 6% (1,041 slots), despite extending the enrollment period to January 2021. Overall preschool enrollment decreased by 18.58%.

- **Child Care Subsidy -** Participation in child care subsidy dropped to a low of ~14,500 children in January 2021, a drop of 43% from before COVID-19.

# Growth Assessments and Instructional Supports

# Growth Assessments

The 2021-2022 school year starts the phased in implementation of the required through-course, growth assessments per HB2027/SB1357 (2021)

- Fall computer-adaptive assessment in grades 3-8 math and reading are being administered.
- Assessment will be based on content from the previous grade level but will be significantly shorter than an SOL test.

In 2022-2023, a fall, winter, and spring assessment will be administered with off-grade level content allowing the Commonwealth to better hone in on a student's proficiency.

These new state-developed assessments align fully to SOL content.

# Virginia L.E.A.R.N.S.

Developed by statewide educational leaders in spring 2021.

Resources and best practices for divisions on curricula (especially literacy and mathematics), remediation and intervention, assessments, student and staff wellness, and technology supports.

Leaders provided recommendations on $30M learning loss grants (from ESSER II) per the 2021 Special Session I.

$62.7M in grants made available in spring 2021 to expand and implement initiatives to address unfinished learning and help students recover.



NAVIGATING **VIRGINIA EDUCATION** IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

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2021

https://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/learns/index.shtml

# American Rescue Plan Act School Recovery Grants

**$107 million in ARPA/ESSER III grants now available to fund instructional interventions to address unfinished learning.**

**Focus on Supporting Literacy and Mathematics:**

- Building division capacity through provision of instructional resources and support
- Supporting teacher quality and instructional leadership through professional learning
- Building regional instructional support hubs
- Developing tutoring programs and training for community partners
- Supporting teacher recruitment and retention

# Staffing Shortages and Recruitment Incentives

# Staffing and Teacher Shortages

Trends in teacher retention and atrophy during pandemic still largely anecdotal, but data collection is expanding:

- HB376 (2020) expanded vacancy data collection to include licensed and unlicensed personnel. Data typically collected annually in October as of September 30 and anticipated for release during the winter.

- Expanded exit survey program and data collection in 21-22 will provide insight to individuals leaving divisions and/or the profession.

- Anecdotally, we have seen larger numbers of teachers retire and divisions are sharing that there will likely be more issues with teacher shortages this year.

- Bus driver shortages have also been a challenge this fall, VDOE is conducting inaugural data collection on statewide shortages.

- VDOE will leverage state set aside funds to support teacher recruitment and retention issues.

# Recruitment Incentive for Public Education (RIPE)

The 2021 Special Session II of the General Assembly appropriated $11.5M to support recruitment efforts for school divisions hiring to fill instructional positions between August 15, 2021, and November 15, 2021.

- The RIPE data collection was a snapshot of vacancies reported on August 15.
- 76 divisions reported 4,922 vacancies.
- The most significant amount of vacancies are in Special Education and Elementary Education, which were anticipated because those are the top two categories that show up in the critical shortage data collected every year.
- An eligible teacher will receive a $2,500 incentive award for filling a non-hard-to-staff position, or an incentive award of $5,000 for a hard-to-staff position as defined by the critical shortage list.

# Child Care and Early Learning

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# Early Childhood Education Transition to VDOE

Chapters 860 and 861 of the 2020 Acts of the General Assembly called on the Board of Education to establish a statewide, unified public-private early childhood care and education system, to be implemented by the VDOE. This creates a single point of accountability for school readiness in the Commonwealth.

As of July 1, 2021, VDOE is responsible for:

- Overseeing all aspects of the child care and early education system, including child care licensing and monitoring, the Child Care Subsidy Program, the Head Start State Collaboration office, and professional development supports
- Leading the implementation of a new measurement and improvement system, called VQB5, which focuses on the quality of all publicly-funded birth-five classrooms and supports families to choose quality programming across different settings
- Supporting the new Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) which advises the Board of Education on all matters related to the unified early childhood system

# Phonological Awareness Literacy (PALS) Screening Data

- The PALS K-3 screening tools identify students at-risk in early reading and this guides the allocation of EIRI funding to support early intervention.

- Students falling below the PALS benchmark are identified as being at high-risk for third-grade reading failure, in the absence of intervention.

- PALS data show significantly more kindergarten and first grade students starting the school year at high risk for reading failure compared to last year.

- The increase in kindergarten and first grade students starting the school year at high risk for reading failure was largest among students who are Black, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged and English learners (EL).
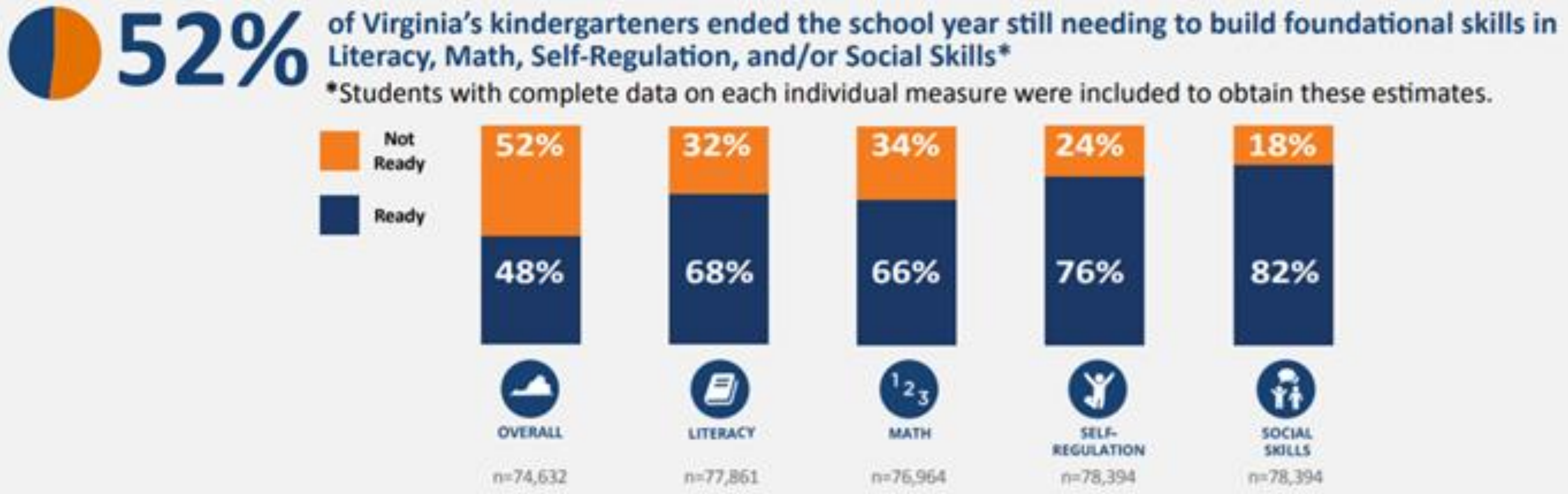
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# Reading Risk in Kindergarten and First Grade



Students At High Risk for Reading Failure:
Fall 2019 versus Fall 2020
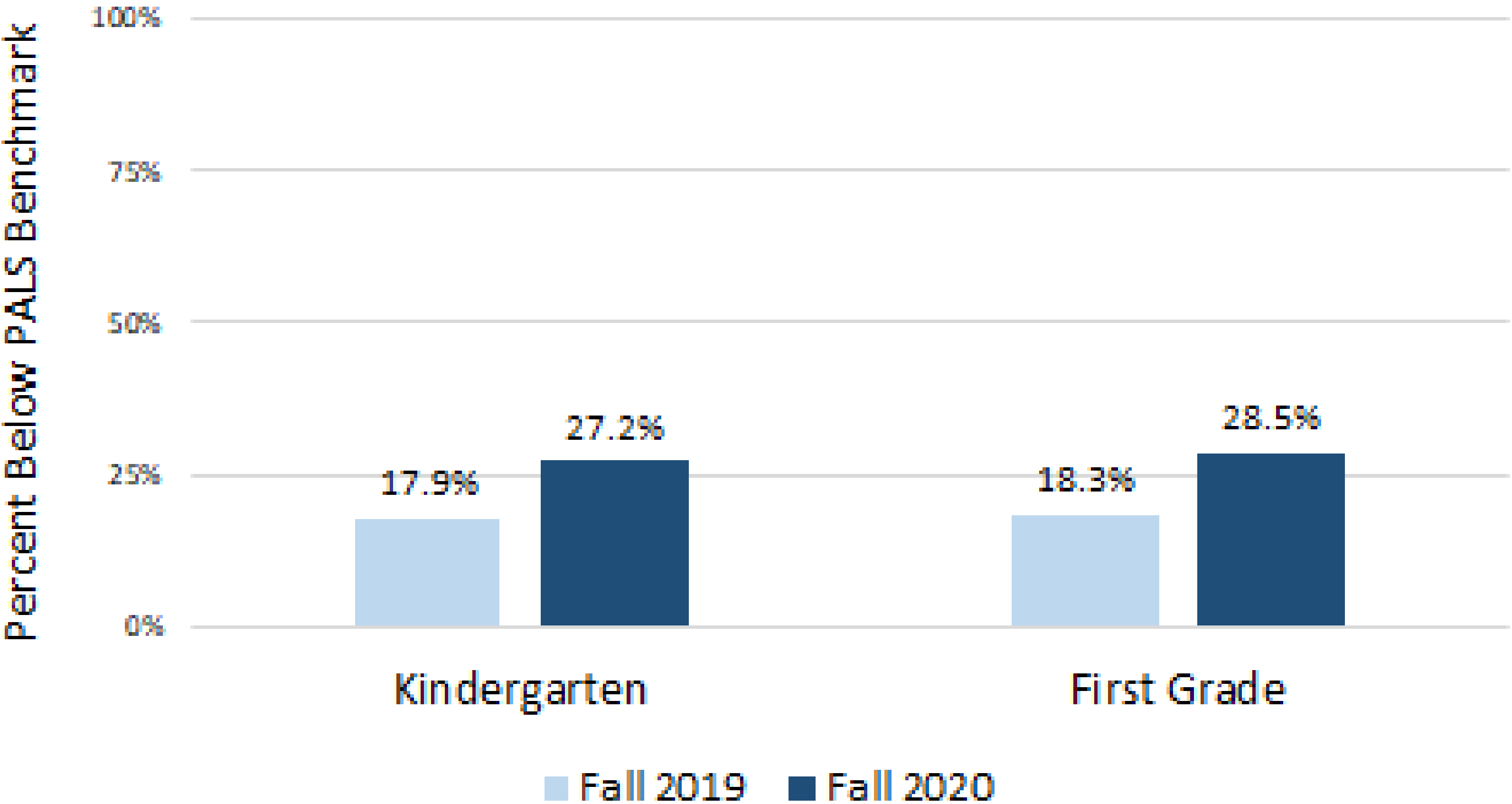
# Kindergarten Impact

Spring 2021 data show a significant impact of COVID 19 on Virginia's youngest learners, especially for historically underserved children including Black and Hispanic children, English Learners and children with disabilities. Here are the overall data from the end of kindergarten:

**52%** of Virginia's kindergarteners ended the school year still needing to build foundational skills in Literacy, Math, Self-Regulation, and/or Social Skills*

*Students with complete data on each individual measure were included to obtain these estimates.

| | Not Ready | Ready |
|---|---|---|
| OVERALL (n=74,632) | 52% | 48% |
| LITERACY (n=77,861) | 32% | 68% |
| MATH (n=76,964) | 34% | 66% |
| SELF-REGULATION (n=78,394) | 24% | 76% |
| SOCIAL SKILLS (n=78,394) | 18% | 82% |

# Child Care Relief Funding

Virginia has used child care relief funding to provide direct cash assistance, fund emergency child care, restore the Child Care Subsidy Program and address immediate needs. ARP requires child care stabilization grants and support for the sector's ongoing recovery.

| Funding Source | Total for Child Care | Spending Deadlines | Funds Remaining as of 9/30/21 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act via CCDBG | $70,799,409 | Obligate: 9/30/22<br>Liquidate: 9/30/23 | $4,980,959 (7%) |
| Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) | $74,941,000 | Liquidate: 12/31/21 | $0 (0%) |
| Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act funding via CCDBG | $203,692,270 | Obligate: 9/30/22<br>Liquidate: 9/30/23 | $112,703,481 (55%) |
| American Rescue Plan via CCDBG<br><br>- (Child Care Stabilization Grants)<br>- (Expanded Child Care Assistance) | $794,098,380 Total<br><br>- ($488,605,381)<br>- ($305,492,999) | Obligate: 9/30/23<br>Liquidate: 9/30/24 | All funds |

Using these funds, Virginia has provided 4 rounds of direct cash assistance for a total of $197,488,226. Regardless of source, Virginia has called all these "CARES Grants."

# Approach for ARPA Grants

**Virginia received $488 million via the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)* to develop and implement a child care stabilization grant program to:**
- Stabilize child care programs now;
- Support providers to make strategic investments (e.g., personnel); and
- Incentivize and reward participation in the Child Care Subsidy Program.

**Key Details:**
- Grants will be for programs that were licensed, registered, or regulated as of March 11, 2021; and/or are approved Child Care Subsidy Program vendors.
- Providers will receive up to 3 payments to cover a 9-month period, beginning in fall 2021.
- Amounts will be based on capacity, status, full/part-time and location in a high-need community, as identified by the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI).
- Open child care providers that participate in or join the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) will receive a one-time bonus worth 20 percent of their base grant.

# Immediate Impact of Relief Funding

Through relief funds and recent legislation (HB 2206), Virginia has helped reopen nearly 2,300 programs and expand eligibility to help Virginia families as they return to work and face higher child care costs. Only 8% of providers who were open in March 2020 have not reopened.

Virginia Child Care Subsidy Program Participation

■ Total Participation    ■ Expanded Income Participation
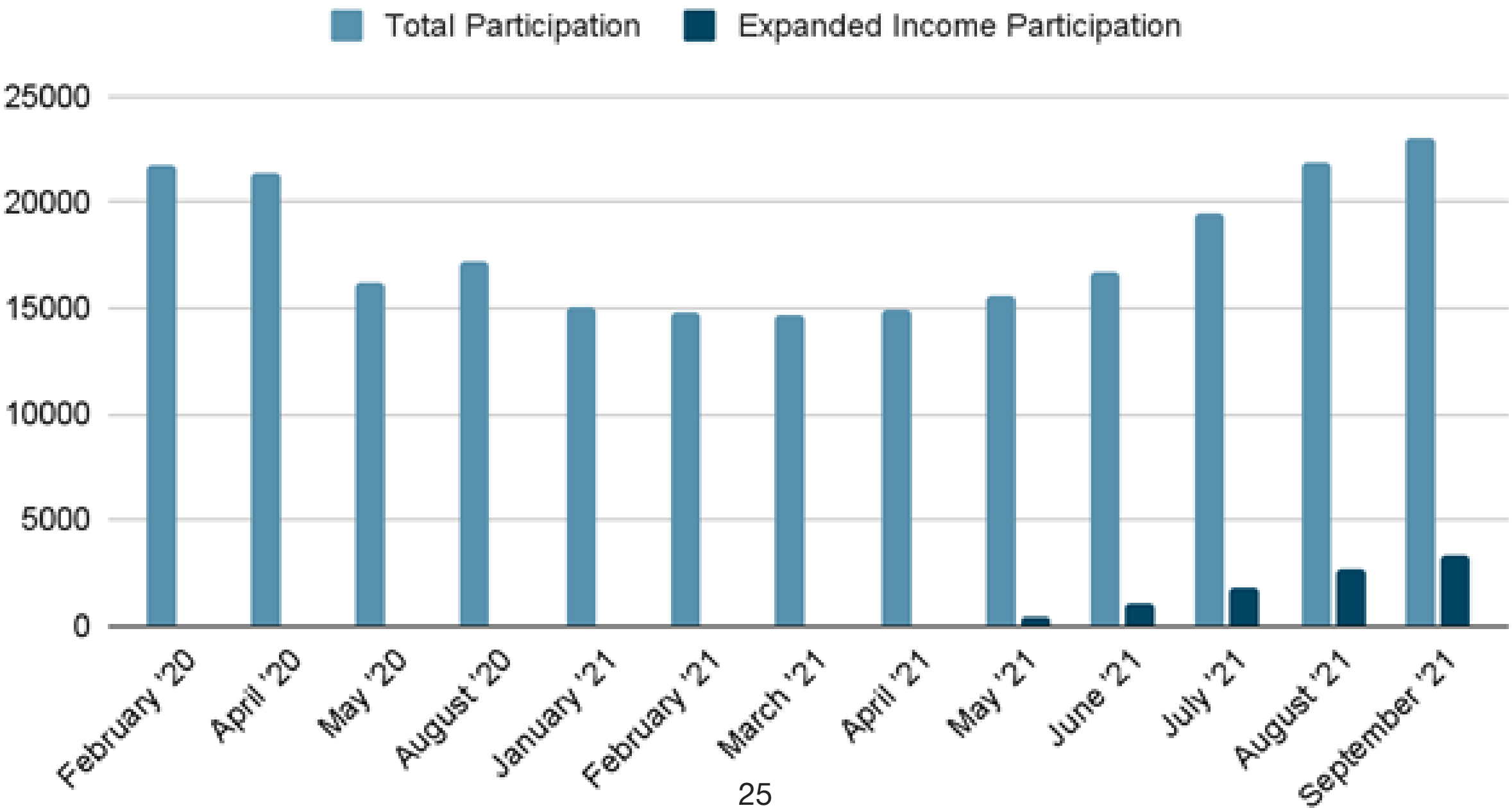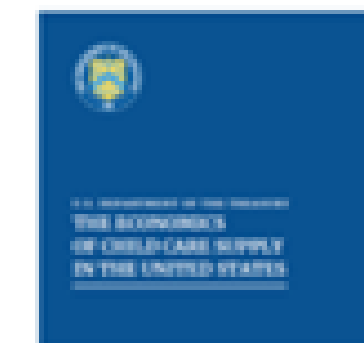
# Addressing the EC Educator Shortage

Since 2019, Virginia has been piloting an innovative early childhood educator incentive to reduce turnover and strengthen quality.
- Rigorous research shows that a $1,500 incentive reduced turnover by half in among Virginia child care and family day home educators.
- Virginia increased funding to $2,000 per educator per year in response to COVID 19 and plan to support at least 5,000 educators this year.

**Effects of Recognition Grant on Child Care Educator Turnover**

Turnover Percentage

13%

24%

Child Care Educators

Received $1500    Did Not Receive Incentive
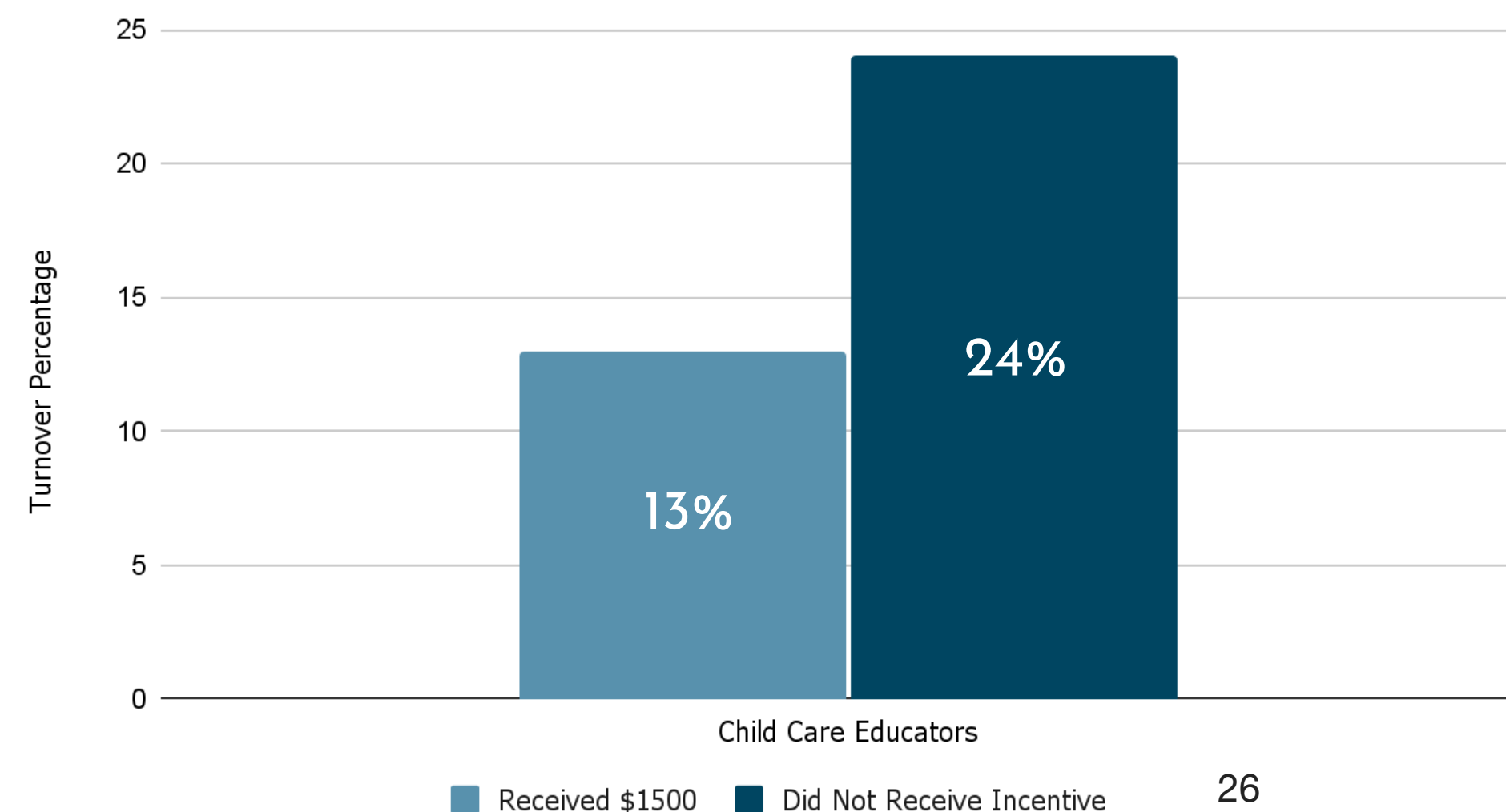
*Virginia's innovative program was just featured in a Treasury Report*

THE ECONOMICS
OF CHILD CARE SUPPLY
IN THE UNITED STATES

In the news:
U.S. Department of the Treasury: The Economics of Child Care Supply in the United States

# K-12 Federal Relief Funding

# Statewide Pandemic Response - Federal Relief Spending Priorities

## Spring and Summer 2020

- Devices and MiFis for students
- Expansion of Virtual Virginia content
- Early childhood care and learning supports
- School nutrition
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) supports and screener
- Partnerships with PBS and Radio Poder

## 2020-2021 School Year and Beyond

- High quality instructional supports to address unfinished learning (learning loss)
- Expanded learning time for students
- Mental health and social emotional supports
- Continued support for Virtual Virginia (including statewide Learning Management System)
- LASER - statewide early intervention system
- Through-course assessments

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# GA Action on COVID Relief for Schools

**No Loss Funding**

- $278M in FY21 and $164M in FY22 (general fund and COVID-19 Relief Fund)
- Ensures that no school division loses state funding in the 2020-2022 biennium

**Learning Loss**

- $40M in Lottery funds the first year to support the state share of a set per pupil amount
- An additional $30M the second year from CRSSA (CARES 2) for grant funding pursuant to stakeholder workgroup on remediation and recovery needs (Virginia LEARNS).

**Other Investments from CRSSA (CARES 2) and ARP**

- $6.5M in FY22 to provide the state share of one additional year of high school attendance for students with disabilities. The Special Session II budget added $3.5M additional from ARP ESSER III funding.
- $8.8M in FY22 to support Through Course Assessments
- $7M in FY22 to support Virtual Virginia and the statewide learning management system
- $11.5M in FY22 from ARP to support teacher recruitment between August and November 2021.

# Federal Relief Packages

**Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**
(March 2020)
*Award period: March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022.*

- $44M from Governor's Discretionary Fund for PreK-12 (GEER I)

- $214M formula driven to divisions (ESSER I)

- $23.9M for state set-aside (ESSER I)

**CARES Act - Coronoavirus Relief Fund (CRF)**
(October 2020)

- $220.8M to public school divisions on a per pupil basis

# Federal Relief Packages Cont'd

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act** *(December 2020)*
*Award period: March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2023*

- $46.6M for non-public schools (EANS)

- $30M Governor's Discretionary Fund (GEER II)

- $845M formula-driven to divisions (ESSER II)

- $101M state-set aside

**American Rescue Plan Act** (March 2021)
*Award period: March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2024.*

- $1.9B formula-driven to divisions (ESSER III)

- $211M state set-aside (ESSER III)

- $46.3M for for non-public schools (EANS II)

- $250M in State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for school HVAC upgrades (funds obligated through 12/31/24)

# ESSER I & ESSER II SPENDING
## LEA FORMULA REIMBURSEMENTS AS OF OCTOBER 2021

| | ESSER I | ESSER II | Total ESSER I and II | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Technology and Support for Digital Instruction | $50,424,419.56 | $3,086,217.68 | $53,510,637.24 | 42.41% |
| Other* | $22,739,728.22 | $7,665,268.39 | $30,404,996.61 | 24.09% |
| Sanitization/Social Distancing/Medical Supplies | $13,351,989.82 | $1,421,189.72 | $14,773,179.54 | 11.71% |
| Equitable Services for Nonpublic Schools | $6,988,516.93 | Not applicable | $6,988,516.93 | 5.54% |
| Extended School Programs | $6,047,770.07 | $3,894,708.14 | $9,942,478.21 | 7.88% |
| Special Populations | $4,715,190.69 | $247,377.56 | $4,962,568.25 | 3.93% |
| Mental Health Supports | $3,674,146.34 | $10,947.14 | $3,685,093.48 | 2.92% |
| Construction, HVAC, Renovation, Remodeling | $763,360.80 | $1,158,324.01 | $1,921,684.81 | 1.52% |

*Other includes salary and benefits, hazard pay, pay for additional duties and continuity of operations. Indirect costs are also included.
Source: Online Management of Education Grant Awards (OMEGA) spending reports

# ARP State Set Aside and State Priorities

**Parameters of ARP State Set Aside**
- 5% for addressing learning loss - $105 M
- 1% for evidence-based summer programs - $21 M
- 1% for evidence-based before and after school programs - $21 M

**Other Requirements:**
- State plan developed in consultation with stakeholders
- State maintenance of effort and maintenance of equity requirements (can not disproportionately impact high-poverty schools)

**State Needs and Priorities:**
- Unfinished learning, particularly early mathematics and literacy
- Target those students most impacted
- Workforce support - including teacher recruitment and retention
- Addressing mental health needs of students
- Building confidence with safe in-person instruction

# Questions & Discussion

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