



Virginia Child Care Association: Pre-K Mixed Delivery Model Remarks
Joint Legislative Subcommittee on Pre-K
Friday, July 24, 2015

Members of the Virginia Child Care Association hope for the opportunity to deliver VPI/VPI+ services to children of Virginia. Our goal is to include VPI/VPI+ students along side enrolled students already participating in our programs.

Below are barriers believed to be the main reasons so few center-based providers are currently engaged in a VPI/VPI+ mixed delivery model in Virginia.

- 1. Fiscal Agent:** As the fiscal agent, local education systems under the Department of Education may or may not choose to include center-based providers. Most center-based programs only have an opportunity once the school-based program is full. School systems are competing with center-based providers to fill slots. Some are viewing this as unfair competition.
- 2. Teacher Qualifications:** Although not a federal requirement, and not required of private teachers in Virginia, VPI & VPI+ teachers are being required to obtain a teaching license, in addition to holding a BA degree.
- 3. Communication:** There has been very little outreach or communication with center-based programs. There is a lack of clarity regarding whose responsibility it is to communicate and connect the mixed delivery model. Also, communication to the general public and perception is that this is a “public only pre-k” program.
- 4. Application Guidelines:** Requirements seem to vary by locality. Is there a standard D.O.E. application/training outlining how center-based programs may participate as a VPI/VPI+ host site? Can there be flexibility for center-based programs in meeting these requirements?
- 5. Matching funds/In-Kind & Lottery Funds:** Braided funding seems very complicated and may be a barrier for center-based providers. Could the funding be structured to reduce barriers to funding for center-based programs?
- 6. Transportation:** Private providers are unsure how transportation would work for VPI/VPI+ students attending center-based programs. Could parents choose to opt-out of school bus transportation and instead opt to drop off and pick up from the center-based VPI/VPI+ programs?



Contact information of various interested stakeholder groups represented:

- Kim Hulcher, Virginia Child Care Association, President
- Dr. Rosemary Burton, Minnieland Montessori
- Gail Johnson, Rainbow Station
- Sandra Noble, Noble Learning Centers
- Kelley Mulcunry, Bundle of Joy CDC
- Clark Andrs, River's Bend Children's Center
- Beth Mattox, Honey Tree CDC
- Pat & Deidra Jeffers, Kids N Us Child Care Center
- KG Graubics, Tuckaway CDC
- Kristen Fust, A Child's Place