

# Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grant Program Update

Joint Subcommittee on VPI  
December 10, 2018

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# Charge of the Joint Subcommittee

*Goals and objectives will be to consider*

- 1. increasing accountability, flexibility, innovation*
- 2. clarification of the state's role and policy relating to providing preschool for economically disadvantaged children*
- 3. further develop the facilitation of partnerships between school divisions and private providers*
- 4. review and consider possible recommendations regarding the development of a competency based professional development framework for early childhood teachers in public schools and early learning practitioners in private early learning settings.*

*- from Chapter 665, of the 2015 Acts of Assembly (Item 1, Paragraph Q)*

# Findings

- Young children are learning continuously
- Quality matters
- Working families need options for children's early care and education (ECE)
- Early childhood educators need specific skills
- ECE financing is fragmented and inefficient

# Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grants Address Charges 1 and 3

Competitive grants for local communities to design and model **flexible** preschool systems that work for their families

- Field test **innovations**, within a time-limited pilot initiative, for robust mixed-delivery preschool systems, **utilizing partnerships between public schools and private child care centers**
- Local decision-making and **accountability** strategies

# Mixed Delivery Grants Process

- RFPs for competitive process
- Review panel, scoring
- Awards made for 2 year terms for each cohort
- Technical assistance and sharing best practices
- Reporting
- Evaluation

# Mixed Delivery Progress

- Providing options for working families through access to quality preschool services in private settings with flexible and longer hours
- Adding preschool slots in community-based classrooms
- Supporting quality of services
- Helping stabilize private sector ECE as small businesses within communities

# Lessons Learned

- Feasibility of locally-driven mixed-delivery systems; barriers remaining
- Importance of pathway for affordable credentials and strategies that support talented early educators
- Complexity of families' access to affordable, quality early childhood education
- Critical need for addressing efficiency of ECE systems and financing

# Opportunities Ahead

- Integrate insights from Mixed Delivery, VPI+, JLARC report, etc. into state's preschool decisions and investments
- Continue to refine system for supporting a talented early education workforce
- Consider integrated financing strategies that promote stable, quality services for 0-5 ECE
- Incentivize and sustain quality for 0-5 ECE
- Establish a vision and strategic plan for Virginia's 0-5 ECE system





VIRGINIA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION AND SCHOOL READINESS CONSULTING  
**MIXED DELIVERY GRANTS UPDATE**

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## Virginia Mixed Delivery Preschool Pilot Program

Increase access to high quality preschool for eligible children by expanding mixed delivery systems



# SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES

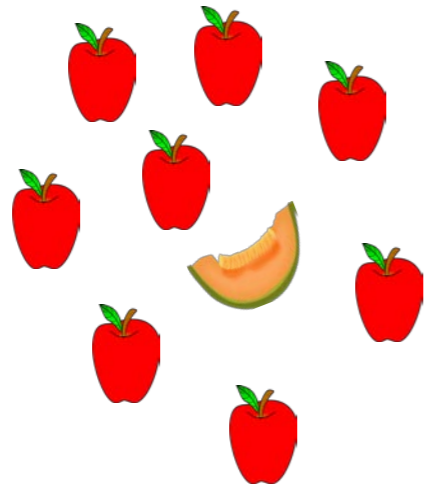




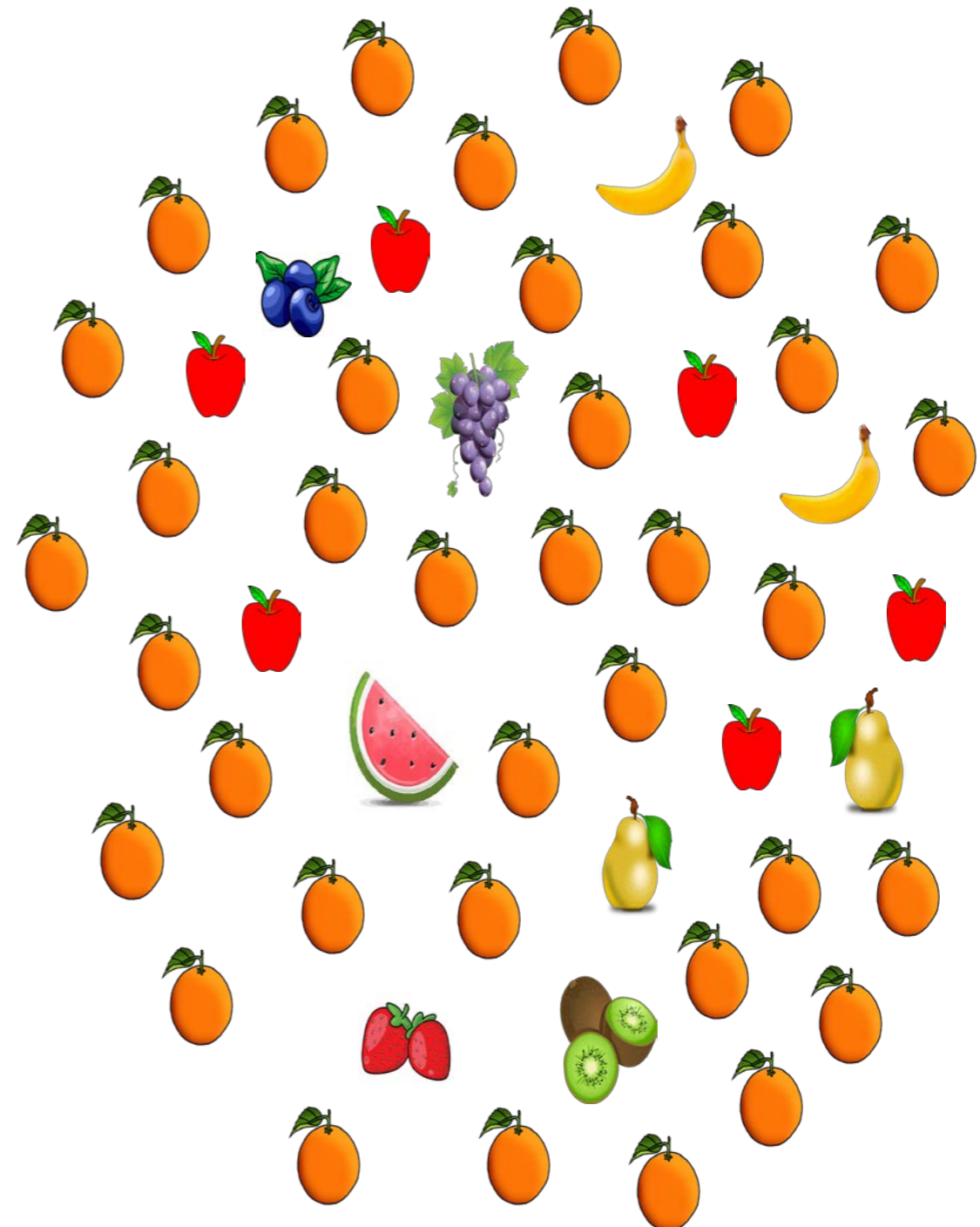
# FULL SAMPLE OF CHILDREN IN EACH GROUP

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**MIXED DELIVERY –  
MOSTLY APPLES**



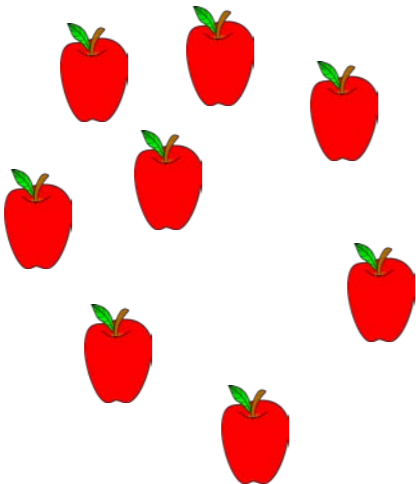
**VPI – MOSTLY  
ORANGES**



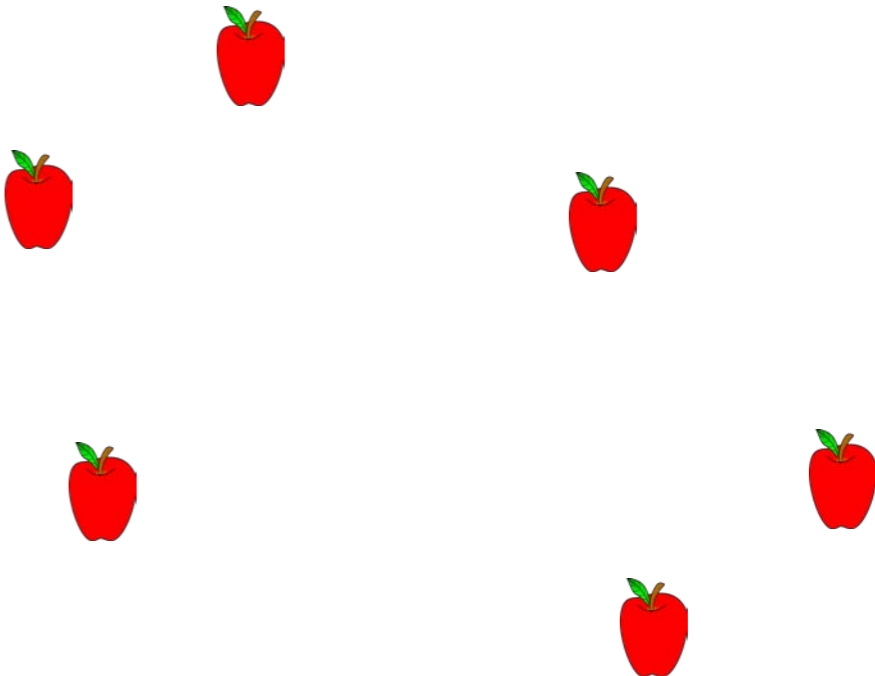
# SAMPLE IN EACH GROUP AFTER MATCHING

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MIXED DELIVERY –  
ONLY APPLES

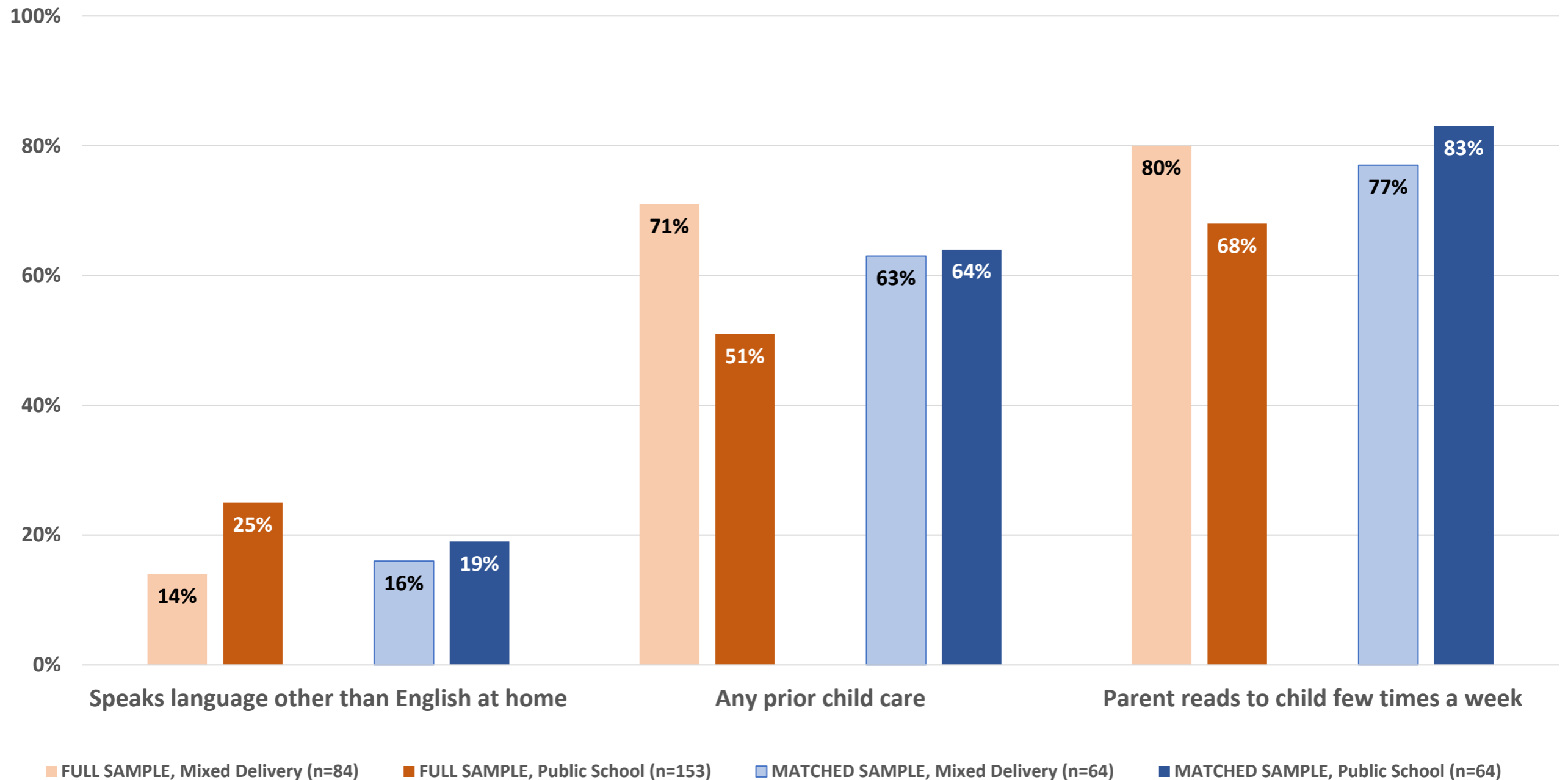


VPI – ONLY  
APPLES



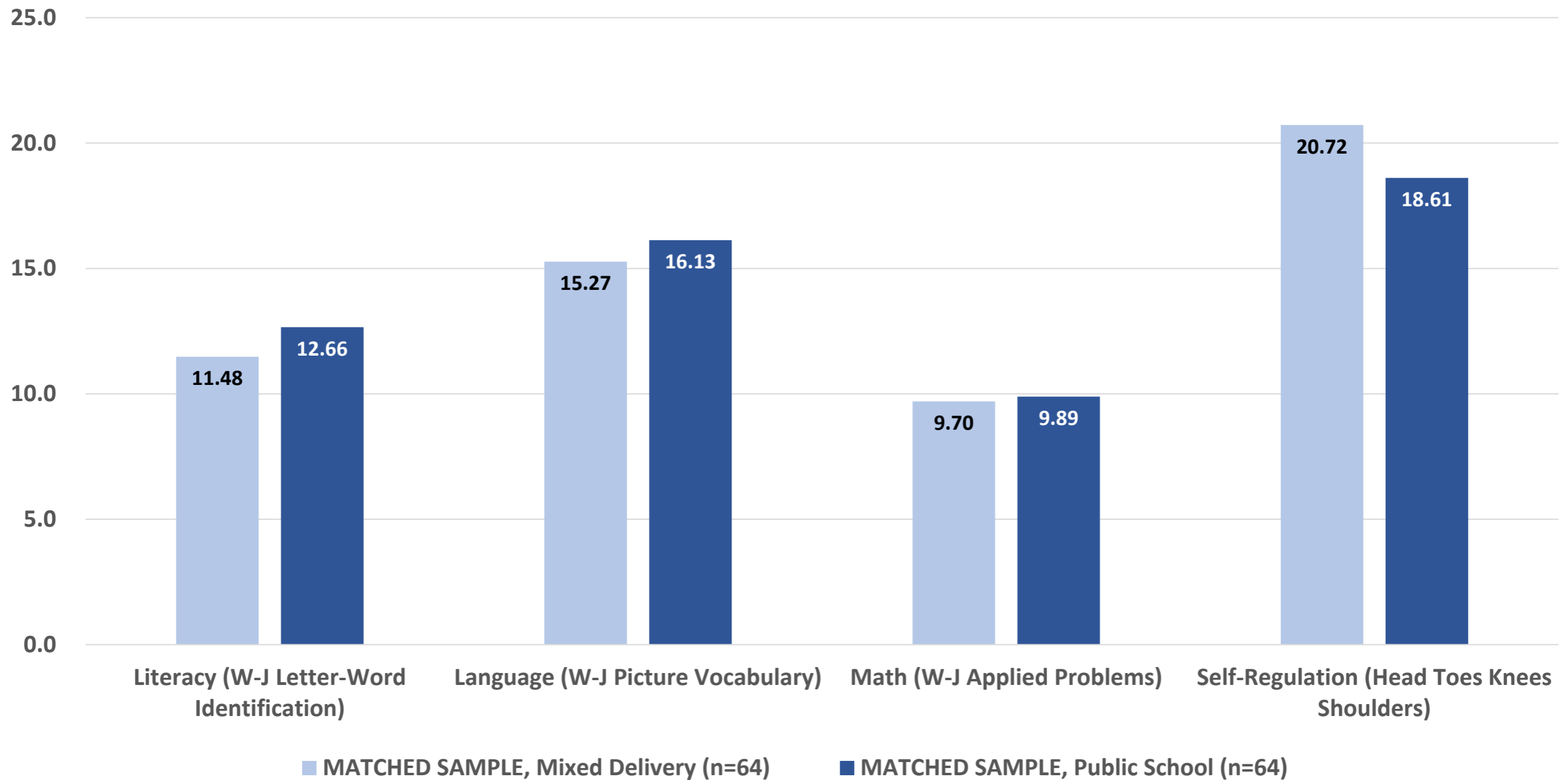
- Propensity score matching (blue) created comparison groups that were similar on child characteristics and pretest scores

Percentage of Mixed Delivery and Public School Children with Each Characteristic, Full (n=237) and Matched (n=128) Samples



- In spring of their preschool year, children in mixed delivery and public school classrooms had similar developmental outcomes

Average child outcome scores in spring of their preschool year, in Cohort 1 mixed delivery and VPI classrooms (n=128)



# IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESSSES



- ▶ **Mixed delivery presented an opportunity to meet family needs and preferences by offering flexible options for publicly funded preschool in both public school and private program settings**



*The elementary school is only from nine to three. I did not want to take my child to a place, have her take the bus somewhere, have her take another bus, just to come back here, and that was the plan until I found out that she was in mixed delivery.*

*~ Mixed Delivery Parent*

# TEACHER SUCCESSES

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- ▶ **Mixed delivery presented an opportunity for child care providers to grow and enhance their practice through professional learning, additional certification, and training on curriculum and assessment**





# PROGRAM QUALITY SUCCESSES

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- ▶ **Mixed delivery helped programs enhance their services with improvements to environmental supports for content learning, curricular supports and professional development opportunities for providers**



*“The classrooms are in such better shape than they were initially... The curriculum piece is now in place and used throughout the site.”*

*~ Program staff member*

# COMMUNITY SUCCESSES

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- ▶ **Mixed delivery increased community awareness and buy-in and engagement**



*“Just to hear our superintendent say we're pre-k through 12 program, after 38 years in the division, it just made me very happy to hear that. We've been able to bring the division together with the early care world... bringing teachers from public school system together with early care professionals, and seeing that there is a shared, common professional conversation there has been really amazing to see.”*

*~ Grantee*

# NEXT STEPS & THANK YOU!

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**Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grants  
Cohort 1 (FY17 and FY18 grant term)**

**James Madison University (\$242,082)  
(Harrisonburg)**

Embed consistent professional development supports for community-based preschool programs serving four-year-olds enrolled in VPI, including access to a credentialing pathway and training focused on supporting dual-language learners.

*Innovations: Partnership between higher education and public school division for delivery of high-quality preschool services; creation of a "Center Director Roundtable," a peer learning community for early childhood administrators hosted by JMU*

**Smart Beginnings Rappahannock Area (\$248,830)  
(Spotsylvania & Stafford Counties)**

Purchase slots in participating child care centers to serve at-risk four-year-olds, creating classrooms that serve children from diverse socio-economic households.

*Innovations: Piloting of a micro-credentialing program designed by UVA that focuses on specific skills for teachers in classrooms of children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds*

**United Way Roanoke Valley (\$250,000)  
(Roanoke City)**

Partnership with a neighborhood-based private child care center will provide new access to preschool services for three- and four-year olds living in low-income housing communities, aligning with Roanoke City Public Schools for teacher training and consistent curriculum.

*Innovations: Data sharing agreements across school division, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, and community agencies enable longitudinal tracking of student progress into elementary school*

**United Way Thomas Jefferson Area (\$250,000)  
(Albemarle County and City of Charlottesville)**

Increase the number of at-risk four-year-olds served by partnering with community-based child care programs and supporting program and teacher quality through intensive on-site coaching and professional development.

*Innovations: Decision-making by a collaboration across two school divisions, human service agencies, and philanthropy; leveraging diverse revenue streams to create sustainable classroom cost models*

**Wythe County Public Schools (\$234,500)  
(Wythe County)**

In partnership with a private foundation, a coordinated system of professional development and quality enhancement will elevate a culture of quality for all preschool providers in the county, both private and school-based.

*Innovations: Community-wide commitment to consistent evidence-based curriculum, teacher development, and a focus on quality improvement; partnership between public school division and philanthropy*

**Total Budget Allocation: \$1,500,000**  
**Total Grant Awards: \$1,225,412**





**Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grants  
Cohort 2 (FY18 and FY19 term)**

**Fairfax County Office for Children (\$250,000)  
(Fairfax County)**

Responding to the unmet needs of working families to have full work-day and summer care for their young children, Fairfax County Office for Children is working with high-quality family child care programs in areas of Fairfax County with concentrated poverty to provide preschool services for VPI and child care subsidy-eligible children. Key community partners include Child Care Assistance and Referral, Fairfax Futures, Head Start, and the Institute for Early Learning.

*Innovations: mentoring and workshops to support high-quality preschool services in cohorts of family child care programs; blending of funding to provide full working-day care*

**Fauquier County Public Schools (\$250,000)  
(Fauquier County)**

With diverse and strong community partners, including local foundations, businesses, non-profit child care providers, and local government agencies, Fauquier County Public Schools is working with Virginia Quality to provide additional high-quality preschool slots in a private setting, targeting high-needs areas of the county where VPI is currently unavailable to eligible children.

Development of professional development modules that will eventually be available to all interested providers in the county.

*Innovations: sliding-fee scale; accessible professional development modules aligned with VA Foundation Blocks for Early Learning and Child Development Associate credential requirements; intensive public engagement and education efforts to promote early childhood education and literacy*

**Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond/Greater Richmond Chamber (\$314,022)  
(Chesterfield County)**

Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond is building on partnerships with quality improvement networks and private child care programs to provide targeted professional development including intensive coaching to teachers. Programs that achieve a level three or higher in Virginia Quality will provide new access to preschool services, especially in areas of the county where there is no VPI available. Eventually, as an incentive and to cover costs associated with increased quality, participating programs who reach higher levels of quality will receive increased rates of compensation.

*Innovations: CLASS-trained coaching model; data-informed quality improvements; increased compensation for improved quality*

**United Way of Southwest Virginia (\$216,705)  
(Carroll, Russell and Tazewell Counties and City of Bristol)**

With significant wait lists for VPI and Head Start services, four rural jurisdictions are working to improve the quality of seven private child care and preschool providers in the region by coordinating with Virginia Quality to provide high-quality professional development. Key partners in the project include school divisions in all four participating jurisdictions in addition to Wythe County Public Schools, Rooftop of Virginia and Clinch Valley community action agencies, local Workforce Investment Boards, Lion's Club, local health districts and departments of social services.

*Innovations: access to comprehensive services for children through community partnerships; tailored professional development using best practices for adult learners*

**Total Action for Progress (\$250,000)  
(Craig County)**

In a community not receiving a VPI allocation, a collaboration of community partners including Craig County Public Schools, Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke, Child Health Investment Partnership (CHIP), Virginia Western Community College and the local Department of Social Services is working together to provide two new preschool classrooms at the only licensed child care center in rural Craig County to give working parents a continuum of quality care and education from birth through kindergarten entry.

*Innovations: blended funding model; individualized professional development for early education teachers; salary-based incentives for attainment of credentials or degrees; intensive family support; data-sharing model using early-childhood and elementary-school data to inform quality improvements*

**Total Budget Allocation: \$1,500,000**

**Total Grant Awards: \$1,280,727**



**Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grants  
Cohort 3 (FY19 and FY20 term)**

**ACT for Alexandria Early Care and Education Workgroup (\$250,000)  
(Alexandria)**

The project will establish two new mixed-delivery classrooms, each with 18 children, in two currently under-served, high-need neighborhoods.

*Innovations: pooled public and private funds; streamlined joint VPI/Head Start/child care subsidy enrollment processes to better serve at-risk families; creation of a Family Engagement Committee within the Early Care and Education Workgroup, to promote increased parent/family engagement and create a pathway for genuine parent input in policy and program decisions.*

**Early Learning Project, College of Education, James Madison University (\$249,513) {Second Award}  
(Harrisonburg/Rockingham County)**

This grantee successfully expanded VPI slots in private settings in its prior (Cohort 1 – 2016) project. This project will continue the expansion by addressing additional barriers faced by private centers, with a concentration on building capacity to serve children who exhibit challenging behaviors. A total of 28 mixed delivery slots will be created by blending VPI funds and child care subsidy dollars.

*Innovations: specialized training/coaching/mentoring to enhance private center capacity to handle challenging behaviors often exhibited by children from distressed or traumatic backgrounds; partnership with Smart Beginnings Greater Harrisonburg to strengthen community collaboration and address fragmentation in planning and delivering early care and education; subsidized transportation for children who have no means to get to participating private centers.*

**Rappahannock County Public Schools (\$250,000)  
(Rappahannock County)**

In response to the sudden closure of local Head Start services last year, the school division and a private center partnered to establish a temporary pre-k alternative for children denied a Head Start experience. This project will solidify that partnership and seek public and private funds to create a permanent solution, including 8 slots for 4 yr. olds (public funds) and a 15-child classroom for 3 yr. olds (private funds).

*Innovations: pooled public and private funds and joint campaign to seek new funds; single-point-of-entry system to include all private centers; collaboration with Virginia Quality to develop a joint professional development system and a uniform data collection system to support continuous quality improvement; professional development enhancements including expanded mentoring/coaching opportunities.*

**United Way – Thomas Jefferson Area (\$250,000) {Second Award}  
(Charlottesville/Albemarle County)**

Grantee will continue to expand community mixed delivery capacity by establishing 30 new slots for 4 yr. olds in two private centers. The initiative especially addresses the issue of underutilization of public pre-k (VPI and Head Start) by targeting mixed delivery innovations to the specific barriers identified by families who have previously declined participation in public programs.

*Innovations: pooled funding including leveraging child care subsidy funds to meet the need for full-day coverage; close liaison with VDSS to identify and engage parents of rising 4 yr. olds who are currently receiving a child care subsidy; intensive support services from the VQ entity (Ready Kids) including an accelerated quality enhancement regimen for participating centers and the use of a Family Coordinator position to engage families and overcome barriers to pre-k enrollment; use of incentives to promote quality improvement progress at both private centers.*

**United Way of Roanoke Valley (\$250,000) {Second Award}  
(Cities of Roanoke and Salem; Counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Franklin)**

This grantee will expand and strengthen its earlier (Cohort 1) mixed delivery initiative in the City of Roanoke by establishing an additional 25 slots in private centers across its region, with a concentration on addressing additional barriers that hinder family access to pre-k and private center participation in mixed delivery.

*Innovations: a multi-tiered "Ready Families/Ready Educators/Ready Communities" approach including more intensive professional development services for participating private centers; incentives for quality improvement activities; more robust two-generation supports for families; increased institutional/bureaucratic flexibility including possible waivers of regulations or practices that hinder family or private center participation.*

(over)





**New River Valley Regional Commission (\$250,000)  
(Counties of Montgomery, Pulaski, Giles, Floyd)**

The project will provide intensive professional development/quality improvement interventions to four private child care centers serving communities with high numbers of VPI-eligible children; and assist these centers in establishing relationships with various providers of early childhood family support services so that centers can connect families with critically-needed supports to improve the impact of early care and education.

*Innovations: provision of intensive professional development/quality improvement, with assistance from two highly-rated local centers acting as "Peer Learning Centers"; full integration of private centers and local DSS offices in a single-point-of-entry family engagement/enrollment system; linking private centers to public and private community providers of family support/education services; partnership with local school divisions to promote vocational education opportunities that prepare students to enter the early care and education field.*

**Total Budget Allocation:   \$1,500,000**  
**Total Grant Awards:       \$1,499,513**