




CHILDREN'S
CABINET

Executive Order No. 11

- Established the Children's Cabinet, which is comprised of:
 - First Lady of Virginia
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Secretary of Education
 - Secretary of Health and Human Resources
 - Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
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Children's Cabinet Priority Areas

- Nutrition and Food Security
- Early Childhood Development and School Readiness
- Systems of Care
 - Student Safety
 - Trauma-Informed Care



Nutrition and Food Security Work Group

- Goals:
 1. Expand access to nutritious food and decrease food insecurity for pregnant women.
 2. Expand access to nutritious food and decrease food insecurity for children.
 3. Promote community-based food systems to increase access to healthy, local foods.
- Ongoing Children's Cabinet Action Items:
 - Childhood Hunger Blueprint Report
 - Hunger Vital Signs
- Recent progress in this field:
 - Feed VA Day of Action – Over **60 volunteer events** held across Virginia highlighting food access, nutrition, health, and education.
 - This year, **58 public school divisions** and **4 private schools** have adopted a Community Eligibility Provisions (up from 47 divisions in 2017)

Early Childhood Development and School Readiness

- Stakeholder discussions on how Virginia can improve its early childhood system and what actions can drive those changes
- Discussions around VKRP, VPI+, home visiting, and other programs and initiatives operating across the Commonwealth in communities with different needs are informing next steps
- Recent progress in this field:
 - **Expanded VKRP** to get better data
 - Funding and investments from this past Session
 - Completed application for a **\$13.9 million** Preschool Development Grant

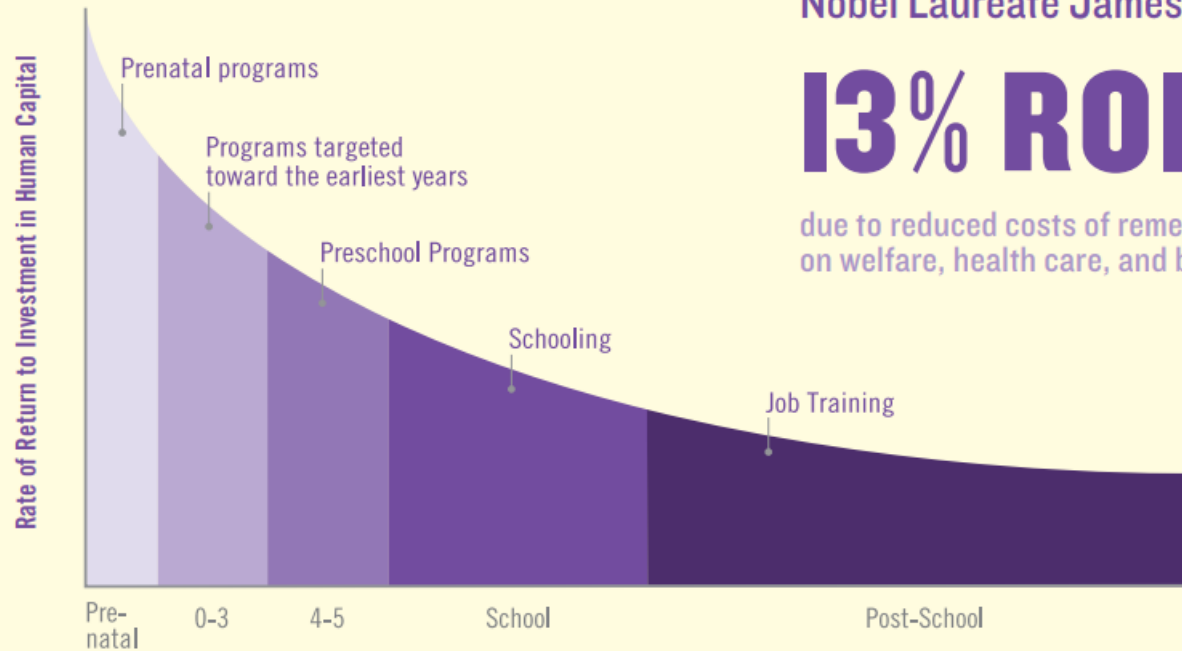


Investing Early

- Investing in improving kindergarten readiness is a smart business investment.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Nobel Laureate James Heckman estimates a

13% ROI



**FROM INVESTING IN
HIGH QUALITY EARLY
CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

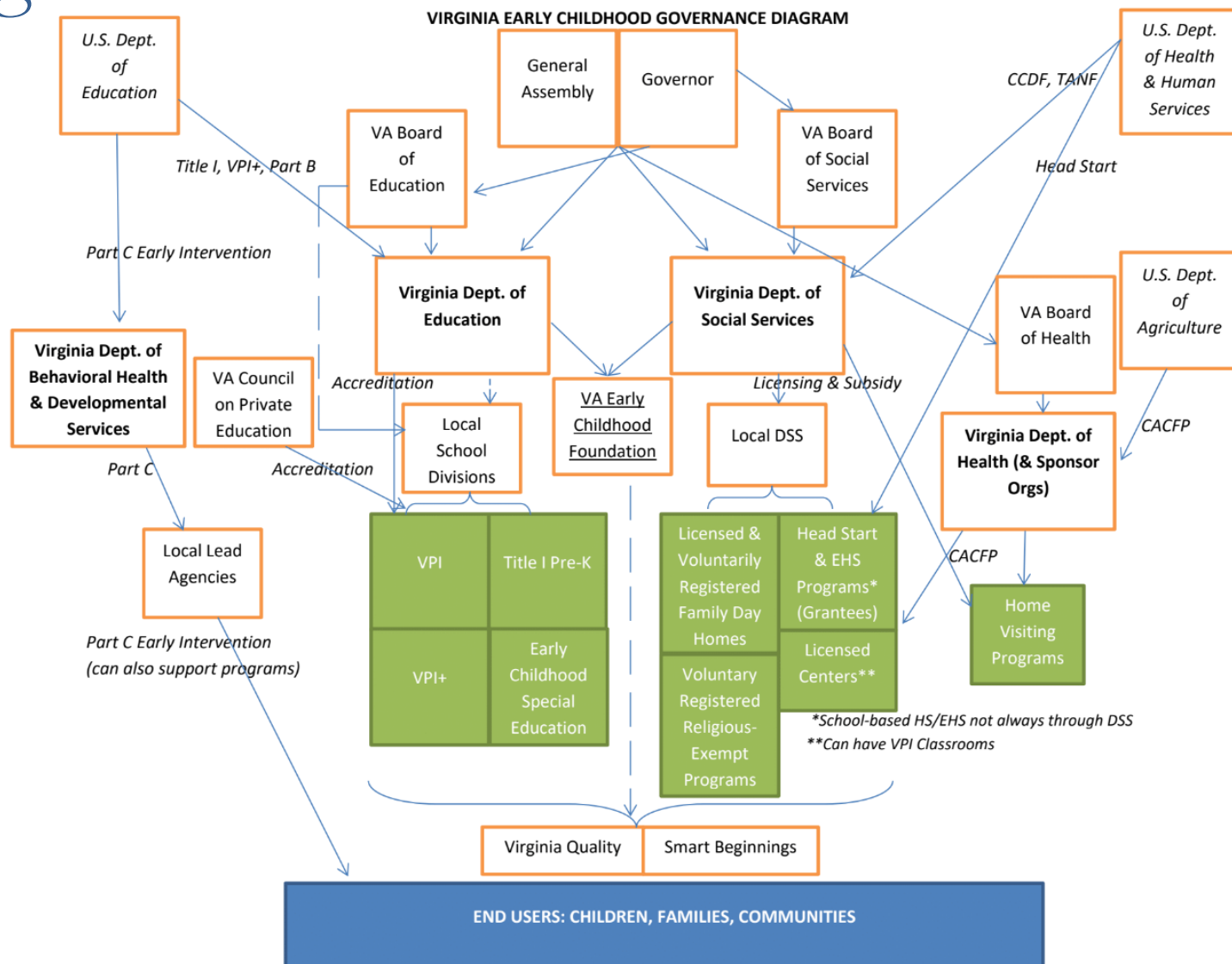
due to reduced costs of remediation, incarceration, reliance on welfare, health care, and better employment outcomes

Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

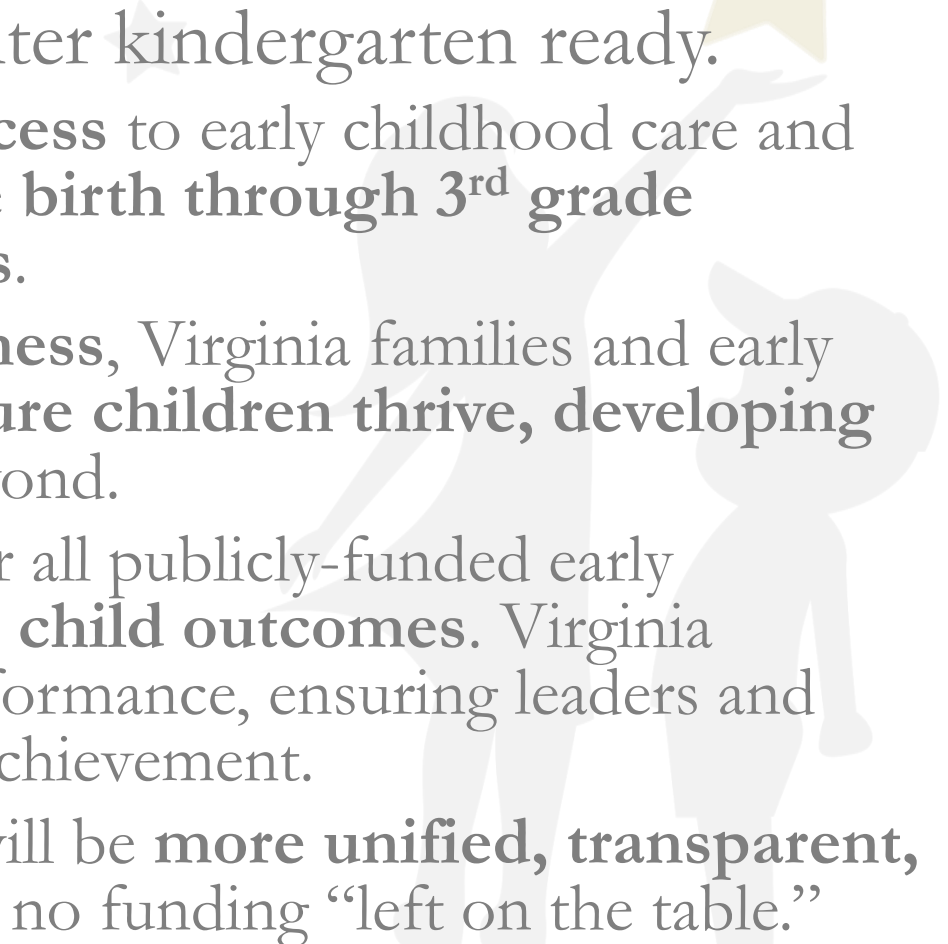
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Current State of Oversight

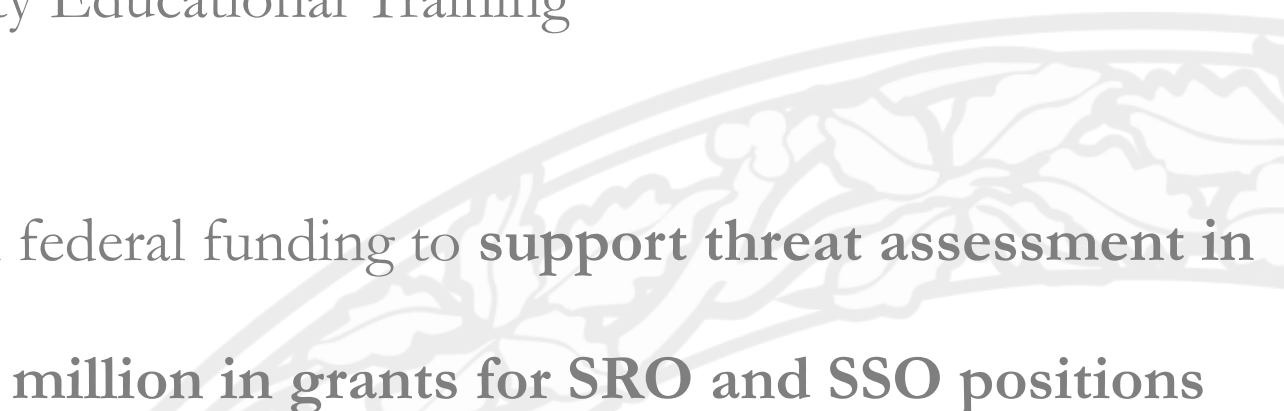
- Governance structure makes it difficult to measure and strengthen our early childhood system – at both state and local levels.



By 2022: What Success Looks Like

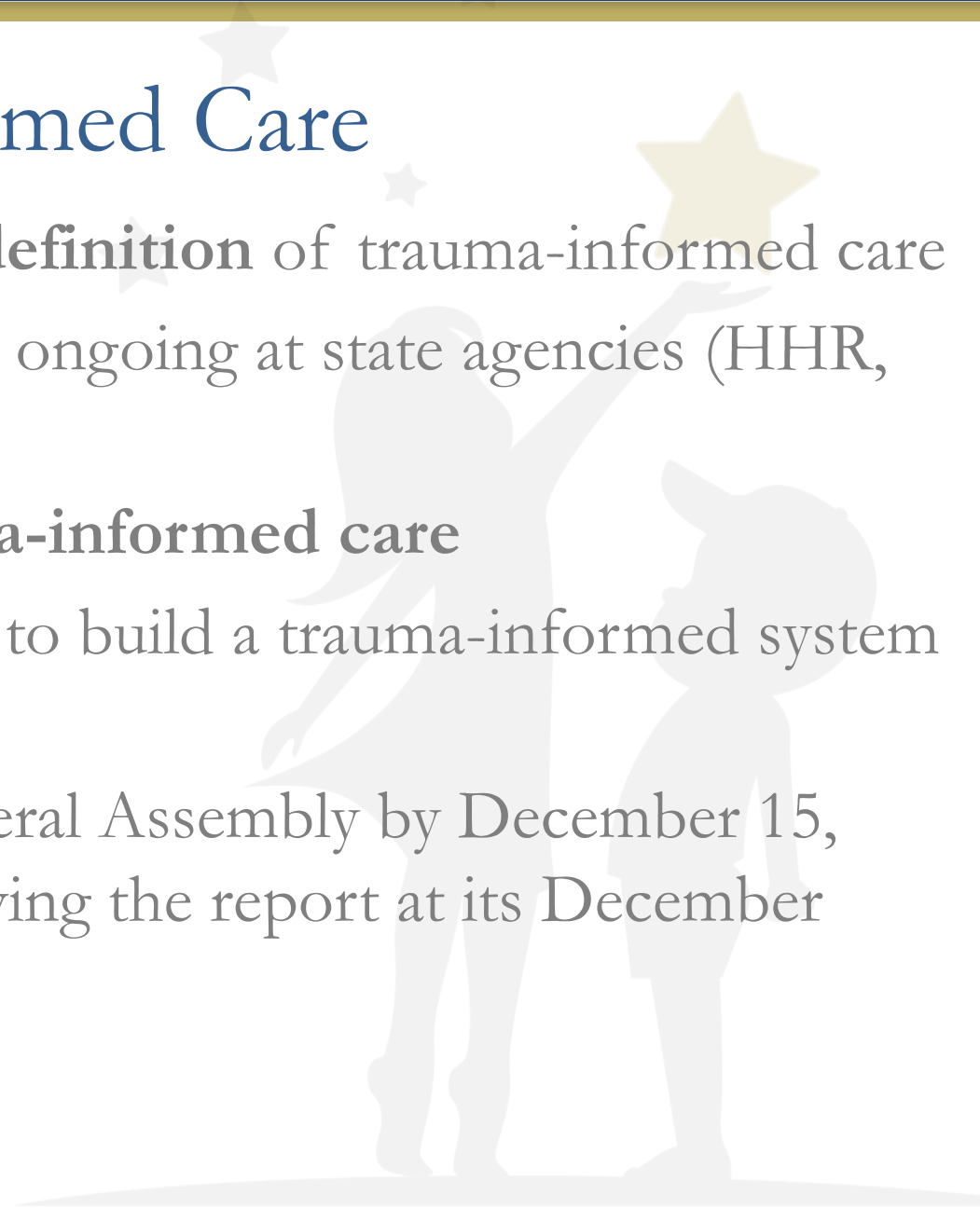
- By 2022, more Virginia children will enter kindergarten ready.
 - More Virginia families have **affordable access** to early childhood care and education that supports learning across the **birth through 3rd grade** continuum and **meets their unique needs**.
 - With a **shared** definition of **school readiness**, Virginia families and early childhood programs work together to **ensure children thrive, developing the skills** needed for kindergarten and beyond.
 - Virginia has **unified quality standards** for all publicly-funded early childhood programs that are **indicative of child outcomes**. Virginia **measures and rewards** programs for performance, ensuring leaders and teachers are **well compensated** for their achievement.
 - Overall Virginia's early childhood system will be **more unified, transparent, data-driven and resource-effective**, with no funding "left on the table."
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- A decorative background illustration on the right side of the slide. It features a grey silhouette of a woman standing and reaching her right arm up towards a large yellow star. Next to her is a smaller grey silhouette of a child, also reaching up towards the star. Several smaller grey stars are scattered in the background.

Systems of Care – Student Safety

- Wide variety of facilitated discussions and presentations
 - Recommendations focused on six primary areas
 - Enhance Information-Sharing and Effectiveness of Threat Assessment Teams
 - Role and Prevalence of School Resource Officers and School Security Officers
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Staffing Levels and Ratios of School Counselors and Support Staff
 - Community, School, and University Educational Training
 - Physical Security
 - Recent progress in this field:
 - Virginia received over **\$869,000** in federal funding to **support threat assessment in schools**
 - Virginia awarded 33 localities **\$1.2 million in grants for SRO and SSO positions**
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Systems of Care – Trauma-Informed Care

- Working to develop a **shared vision and definition** of trauma-informed care
- **Cataloguing the trauma-informed work** ongoing at state agencies (HHR, Public Safety, Education, Housing)
- Exploring opportunities to **expand trauma-informed care**
- Developing **strategies** and **best practices** to build a trauma-informed system of care
- Work group providing a report to the General Assembly by December 15, 2018. The Children's Cabinet will be reviewing the report at its December meeting.





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