

## Early Childhood Education – Workgroup on Quality

### Recommendation Adopted on November 17, 2014

Request the Board of Education partner with the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) to convene an interagency, cross-sector workgroup to be facilitated by the VECF. The workgroup shall develop a competency-based professional development framework to inform the requirements and guidelines for pre-service education, in-service education, and training for early learning practitioners in all of Virginia's early learning settings. In developing the framework, the workgroup will review:

- Professional support and in-service training proven to promote gains in children's social and academic development;
- *Virginia's Quality Indicators for Responsive Teaching; Creating a High Quality Learning Environment* to ensure that teacher-child interactions and social/instructional supports are included as core competencies;
- Efforts to build capacity with private partners that emphasize hiring teachers with such training; and
- Revisions to Virginia's Star Quality Standards which emphasize elements that demonstrate success including teacher preparation/professional development versus structural and/or physical plan components.

A task of the workgroup will also be to consider a child care system where all providers, including home-based providers, obtain a child care license. In addition, the workgroup shall ensure that Virginia meets all federal child care regulations. The workgroup shall make a final report on its activities to the Virginia Commission on Youth prior to the 2016 General Assembly Session.

*(Commission staff will update the Commission at the December 2 meeting on whether additional resources are necessary to accomplish this Recommendation.)*

**Early Childhood Education – Workgroup on Quality**  
**Recommended New Language**  
**(Adopted by consensus on December 2, 2014)**

1. Request the Virginia Department of Education’s Office of Humanities and Early Childhood participate with the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) to convene an interagency, cross-sector workgroup to be facilitated by the VECF. The workgroup shall develop a competency-based professional development framework to inform the requirements and guidance for pre-service education, in-service education, and training for early learning practitioners in Virginia’s early learning settings. In developing the framework, the workgroup will review the following:
  - Professional support and in-service training proven to promote gains in children’s social and academic development;
  - Current professional development standards, such as competencies for practitioners, trainers, and technical assistance providers; career pathways; trainer and training approval systems; technical assistance and mentoring/coaching programs, training programs that lead to credentials and certifications;
  - *Virginia’s Quality Indicators for Responsive Teaching; Creating a High Quality Learning Environment* to ensure that the document supports teacher-child interactions and personal and social development;
  - Efforts to build capacity with private partners that emphasize hiring teachers with such training;
  - Revisions to Virginia’s Star Quality Standards which emphasize elements that demonstrate success including teacher preparation/professional development versus structural and/or physical plan components; and
  - Other relevant research-based information.

The workgroup shall make a final report on its activities to the Virginia Commission on Youth prior to the 2016 General Assembly Session.

2. Request the Virginia Department of Social Services to continue to ensure compliance with federal child care regulations and new federal rules that may be adopted. This would include provisions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, signed into law by the President on November 19, 2014 as well as subsequent regulations that may be issued by the U. S. Office of Child Care.
3. Request the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success to investigate the development of a child care system where all providers, including home-based providers, be required to obtain a child care license and present on its activities to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2016 General Assembly Session.