

# Virginia Preschool Initiative

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*Virginia Commission On Youth*

**Virginia Department of Education**

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Director of Humanities and Early Childhood Education

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# Virginia Preschool Programs

State Funded  
Programs  
Administered by the  
VDOE

**Virginia  
Preschool  
Initiative  
(VPI)**

Federally Funded  
Programs  
Administered by the  
VDOE

**Title 1  
Preschool**

**Early  
Childhood  
Special  
Education**

Federally Funded  
Programs  
Administered by  
Head Start Offices

**Head Start**

# Virginia Preschool Initiative Funding

- In 1994, the General Assembly appropriated \$10.3 million for the VPI program to begin in FY 1996. Funding has gradually increased to support more **at-risk four-year-olds**. By FY 2006, 100 percent of unserved at-risk four-year-olds were funded. In FY 2011, \$60.5 million was allocated for the VPI program.
- The funding methodology adopted by the General Assembly for FY 2015 and beyond for the the number of unserved at-risk four-year-olds in each division is based on the projected number of kindergarten students. The division level free lunch eligibility percentage is used as the at-risk criterion in the funding formula.
- State funding is provided based on the state share of \$6,000 per eligible child. The local share of cost is capped at 50 percent.

# Virginia Preschool Initiative

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) uses state funds to serve **four-year-olds** who are **at-risk** for school failure and **not** presently receiving services from Head Start. VPI provides programs for at-risk four-year-old children that include:

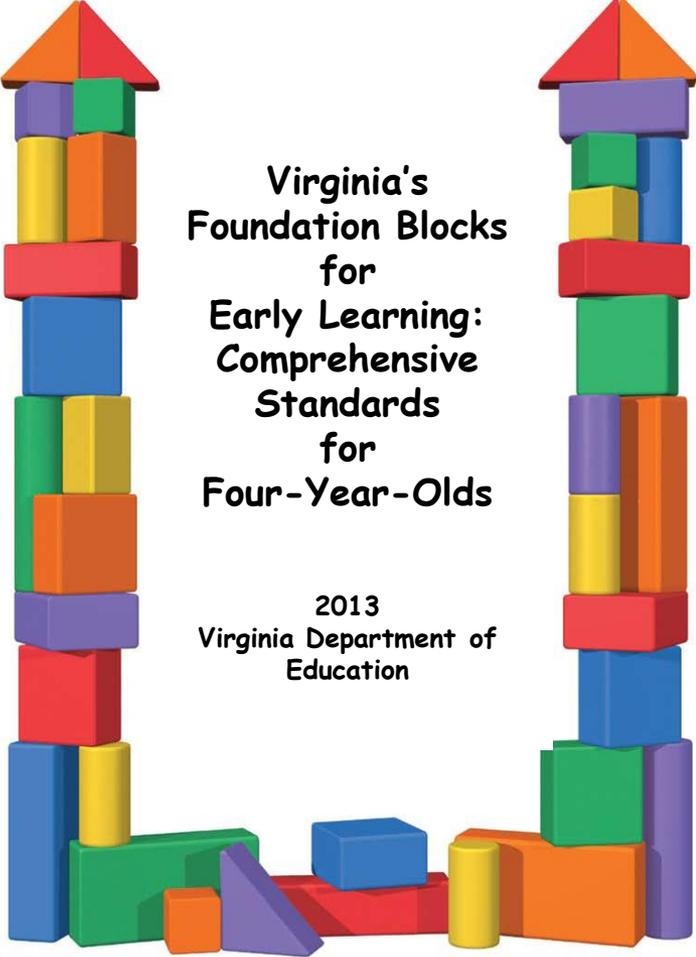
- Quality preschool education
- Vertically aligned standards and curriculum
- Assessment procedures
- Health services
- Social services
- Parental involvement
- Transportation



# Virginia Preschool Initiative Focus on Quality

- **Teacher Quality** with knowledge of both academic content areas and child development including social-emotional and self-regulation skills. Teachers funded with VPI must have a license from the Board of Education.
- **Professional Development** focused on improving teacher practice and child outcomes. VDOE support and resources as well as local flexibility to provide quality PD.
- **Accountability** for student success including data-driven decision making using local resources and PreK-PALS.
- **Collaboration** with blended and braided services with agencies and partnerships as well as strong communication with families.

# Comprehensive Standards and Quality Indicators



**Virginia's  
Foundation Blocks  
for  
Early Learning:  
Comprehensive  
Standards  
for  
Four-Year-Olds**

**2013  
Virginia Department of  
Education**

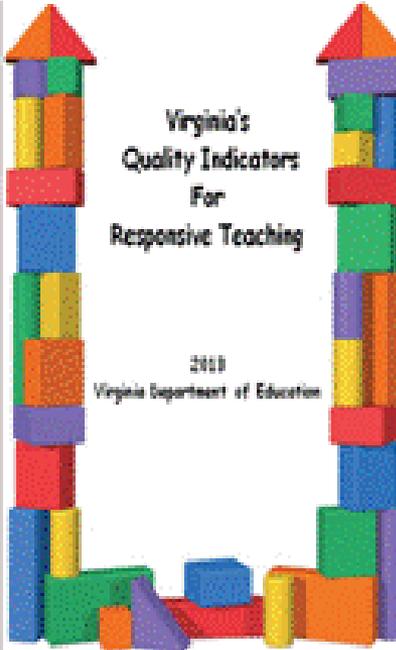
**Virginia's Preschool  
Curriculum Review  
Rubric  
and Planning Tool**

In Support of  
Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning



**June 2013**

Virginia Department of Education  
Office of Humanities and Early Childhood



**Virginia's  
Quality Indicators  
For  
Responsive Teaching**

**2010  
Virginia Department of Education**

# Ensuring VPI Quality

## Program Requirements

- Alignment to the *Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds*
- Provide for professional development
- Hire qualified staff
- Address assessment procedures
- Plan for home-school communication
- Require a minimum of half day services
- Limit the group size to 18 and a child/staff ratio of 9:1

# Virginia's Definition of School Readiness

**School Readiness** describes the capabilities of children, families, schools and communities. High-quality early education programs support school readiness and no one component stands alone.

- Ready Children
- Ready Families
- Ready Schools
- Ready Communities



# Virginia Preschool Initiative Selection Criteria for Children

**Local plans** must indicate student selection criteria. Some examples include:

- Poverty
- Homeless
- English language learners
- Family stress

# Benefits of a Quality VPI Program

- VPI funded program attendance is beneficially associated with a **reduced** likelihood of **repeating kindergarten**.
- In terms of **literacy skills**, attending a VPI–funded program showed a beneficial association for all students. Effect is maintained through first grade for Blacks and Hispanics, and students with disabilities.
- Analysis of preschool and kindergarten literacy Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) results showed a **strong association between VPI participation and PALS scores**.



# Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening

Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged **Kindergarten** Students Identified in Fall for Reading Intervention Services by Preschool Experience: 2013 Data

Preschool Program	Total Number of Students Screened	Students Identified as <b>Not Needing</b> Intervention Services		Students Identified as <b>Needing</b> Intervention Services	
		Number of Students	Percent of Total Number of Students	Number of Students	Percent of Total Number of Students
<b>VPI</b>	11,259	10,540	94%	719	6%
<b>Coordinated Programs</b> (VPI, Title 1, SPED, etc)	5,813	5,427	93%	386	7%
<b>Other PreK</b>	33,681	30,904	92%	2,777	8%
<b>PreK Status Unknown</b>	15,725	13,242	84%	2,483	16%
<b>No PreK</b>	14,477	10,754	74%	3,723	26%

# Virginia Preschool Initiative

## Participation Levels in Virginia

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Number of localities:	136	136	136	136	135
Number of localities eligible for funding:	125	127	127	131	131
Number of participating localities:	112	113	114	119	119
Number of eligible, but not participating localities:	13	14	13	12	12
Number of localities not eligible:	11	9	9	5	4
Number of eligible children based on funding formula:	21,072	23,177	23,443	24,483	24,629
Number of participating children:	14,944	15,881	16,618	17,313	18,021

# Virginia Preschool Initiative Challenges

## Nonparticipation or Partial Use of Slots

In spite of budgetary challenges, the number of participating children in VPI continues to increase. The top two challenges reported by divisions include:

- Local match
- Insufficient space



# Virginia Preschool Initiative Support

- There are a number of partnerships with offices and agencies throughout the Commonwealth to support providing high quality VPI programs to the field.
  - The VDOE office of Early Childhood Education has **one** staff member which impacts outreach to divisions for site monitoring and professional development.
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# For More Information

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