

Early Childhood and School Readiness Workgroup Meeting

August 8, 2018

Welcome!



Agenda

All Virginian children, regardless of background or zip code, are capable of and deserve the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready.

- Introduction and Comments by First Lady Pamela Northam
- Icebreaker
- Overview of Children's Cabinet
- Early Childhood Development and School Readiness in Virginia
- Planning for 2021



Overview of Children's Cabinet

With Executive Order 11, Governor Northam established the Children's Cabinet which is charged to do the following:

- Develop a set of goals, identify strategies, and measure impact and outcomes related to the priorities described below.
- Encourage state agencies to collaborate across government and non-governmental entities on collective goals and support efforts to collect and share data to track outcome metrics and inform future policy.
- Evaluate and recommend ways to optimize and align local, state, and federal resources, and public-private partnerships to enhance current and prospective programs and services for Virginia's children and their families, particularly those at higher risk.
- Identify best practices and areas for improvement.

Early Childhood and School Readiness in Virginia

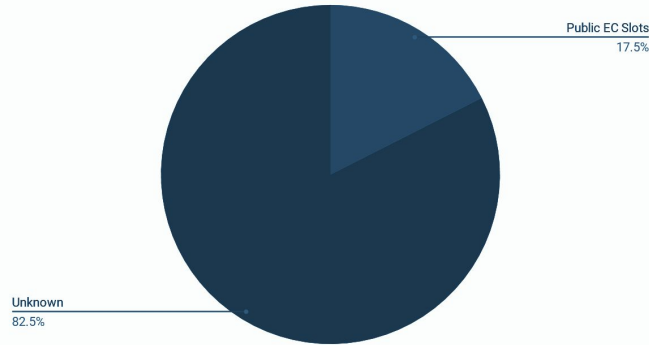
Only 60% of Virginia children are entering kindergarten with the literacy, math, self-regulation and social skills needed to be ready to succeed.

- Approximately 100,000 children are born each year in Virginia. Of these children, approximately 9,000 are born pre-term and 8,300 are low birth weight.
- 91,000 children enter kindergarten in public schools each year.
- Child poverty rate is 14%. However, 41% or 38,000 kids entering kindergarten are disadvantaged.
- More than 40,000 children birth to five benefit from services for developmental or special needs.
- 8,000 kids in kindergarten are identified with disabilities as compared to 14,000 kids in 9th grade.
- Nearly 10,000 families are served by home visiting programs.
- More than 57,000 disadvantaged birth to five children are served by publicly-funded care and education programs including school-based PreK, Head Start and Child Care Assistance.

Data Example: Need vs. Demand

Large numbers of Virginia children are currently served yet many more may need or may be eligible for services.

Assuming 65% of children have all available parents in workforce...



Percentage of **At-Risk Children** Served by Home Visiting Programs in 2017 by Locality

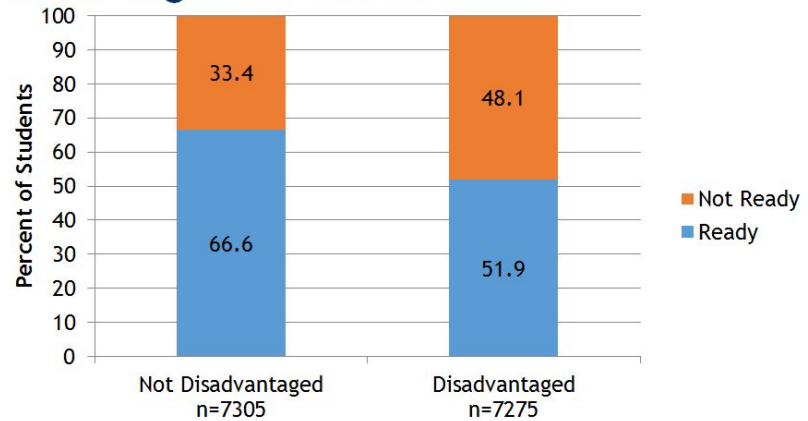


Courtesy of Early Impact Virginia

Data Example: VKRP Results by Economic Status

In 2017, only 60% of the 15,000 Virginia kindergarteners assessed were ready across all four areas. Disadvantaged children were less likely to be fully ready.

2017 Data – Relation between Economic Disadvantage and Readiness



Data Example: VKRP Results by Area

In 2017, the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Project results showed that the areas for growth are in children's self-regulation and social skills.

Number of Children Identified as “Ready” As a Function of the Assessments Included

	2016		2017	
Ready On...	n	%	n	%
Literacy	8,067	83.4	12,605	83.7
Literacy and Math	7,292	75.4	11,438	75.9
Literacy, Math, and Self-Regulation	6,614	68.4	10,203	67.7
Literacy, Math, and Social Skills	6,089	63.0	9,483	62.9
Literacy, Math, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills	5,820	60.2	9,022	59.9
Total Sample	9,672*	100.0	15,067*	100.0

Note: * = Students who were missing at least one of the readiness assessments were not included.

Planning for 2021: Early Childhood and School Readiness Workgroup

Early Childhood Development and School Readiness are top priorities of the Children's Cabinet as described below:

1. Promote healthy pregnancies and social supports to new mothers and families for the first few years of a child's life.
2. Ensure that early childhood education is affordable, accessible and of high quality everywhere in the Commonwealth.

The charge of this workgroup is to support the Children's Cabinet to develop a set of goals with desired outcomes, recommend strategies and to track progress for these two priorities.

Planning for 2021: Kick-Off Exercise

“If I had an hour to solve a problem, I’d spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions.”

*Albert Einstein**

1. What are the top three accomplishments in early childhood and/or school readiness in Virginia?
2. What are the top three challenges in early childhood?
 - From this, please define the “problem to solve” for this administration
3. What should be different for Virginia’s children as it relates to early childhood and school readiness on December 31, 2021?
 - Please identify the top three desired outcomes. Bonus points if your group frames as SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based).

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Virginia can lead the nation in demonstrating and sustaining an equitable, innovative and effective early childhood system.

- Workgroup members are invited to attend Children's Cabinet on August 23 at 9:30 am in Patrick Henry Building.
- Next workgroup meeting will be in September. We will refine big-picture goals and strategies as well as discuss ongoing activities.
 - Early Childhood Investments from 2018 Session
 - Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five Application
 - Other?
- Email additional thoughts or suggestions to me at jenna.conway@governor.virginia.gov.

Thank You!

