



Virginia Preschool Initiative-**PLUS**

Joint Subcommittee on Preschool  
September 7, 2016



# Presentation Overview

- Comparison: VPI+ Federal Grant and Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Improving VPI Slots Using Grant Funds in School Year (SY) 2015-2016
- Enrollment Data from SY 2015-2016
- Preliminary Measures in VPI+ New Classrooms from SY 2015-2016
- VPI+ Looking Ahead: SY 2016-2017

# VPI+ Grant Overview

## Year 1 (2015) and Year 2 (2016) Federal Award Amounts

- \$ 17,500,000 each year (2 additional years to be awarded)

## Lead Agency

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

## Partnerships and Support

- 11 Divisions and local public-private partnerships
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation/Smart Beginnings
- University of Virginia's Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL)
- Virginia Department of Health
- Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

# VPI+ Implementation Team



Sussex County  
Public Schools

Prince William County  
Public Schools

Chesterfield County  
Public Schools



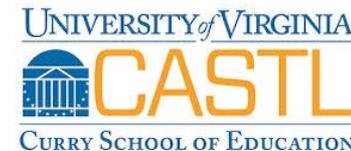
Winchester  
Public Schools

Richmond City  
Public Schools



Norfolk Public  
Schools

Henrico County  
Public Schools



Fairfax County  
Public Schools

Petersburg City  
Public Schools

Giles County  
Public Schools

Brunswick County  
Public Schools



**Comparison:  
VPI+ Federal Grant and  
Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)**

# Requirements for a High-Quality Preschool Program

Federal Element	VPI+ New	VPI State
Full-day program	Full-day (5.5 hours)	Half-day (3 hours) or Full-day (5.5 hours)
Licensed teachers	Required	Required when paid with public funds
Instructional staff salaries comparable to salaries of K-12	Required in both public and private settings	No requirement related to salaries in private settings
Child-to-instructional staff ratio of no more than 10 to 1	No more than 9 to 1	No more than 9 to 1
Class size of no more than 20	No more than 18	No more than 18

# Requirements for a High-Quality Preschool Program

Federal Element	VPI+ New	VPI State
Developmentally-appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based curricula and formative assessments	<p>Creative Curriculum, or other approved curriculum aligned to Foundation Blocks for Early Learning</p> <p>PALS-PreK</p> <p>GOLD formative assessment</p>	<p>Selected by locality, aligned to Foundation Blocks for Early Learning</p> <p>PALS-PreK</p>
High-quality professional development (PD) for staff	<p>30 hours of early childhood PD/year</p> <p>Individualized PD plans for teachers</p> <p>VPI+ Coach provides up to 40 hours of coaching</p>	<p>15 hours PD/year</p>

# Requirements for a High-Quality Preschool Program

Federal Element	VPI+ New	VPI State
<p>Program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement</p>	<p>Outside evaluation team conducting comprehensive evaluation (SRI International)</p> <p>Summative assessments (preK and fall of kindergarten)</p> <p>Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) in Years 1 and 3</p>	<p>No requirement</p>

# Requirements for a High-Quality Preschool Program

Federal Element	VPI+ New	VPI State
<p>On-site or accessible comprehensive services provided</p>	<p>Nutrition services (daily snacks and meals provided free to students)</p> <p>Screenings/referrals and coordinated support for obtaining services (e.g., vision, dental, health)</p> <p>Family Engagement Coordinator to facilitate comprehensive services and family engagement opportunities</p>	<p>No meal required</p> <p>Screenings/referrals and coordinated support for obtaining services (e.g., vision, dental, health)</p>

# Requirements for a High-Quality Preschool Program

Federal Element	VPI+ New	VPI State
Inclusion of children with disabilities to ensure access to and full participation in all opportunities	The percentage of eligible children with disabilities served by VPI+ is not less than either the percentage of four-year-old children served statewide through Part B, Section 619 of IDEA (5.4%), or the current national average (6.4%), whichever is greater	No inclusion percentage requirement
Evidence-based health and safety standards	School health and safety standards or Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers	School health and safety standards

# **Improving VPI Slots Using Grant Funds in School Year (SY) 2015-2016**

# Model for Improved PreK Slots

(9 out of 11 divisions improved VPI slots)

An “improved” state preschool program slot is a slot that already existed at the time of Virginia’s grant application and that will be improved by any of the following allowable improvements using grant funds:

- providing comprehensive services (*9 divisions*);
- providing evidence-based professional development and coaching (*9 divisions*);
- extending programs from half-day to full-day (*1 division*);
- decreasing child-to-staff ratios (*1 division moved to 6:1*); or
- employing and compensating a teacher with a bachelor’s degree (*already in place in all 9 divisions improving VPI slots*).

## Enrollment Data from School Year 2015-2016

1,230 VPI+ new students

+1,574 VPI improved

2,804 students served in high-quality PreK classrooms

# VPI+ New as of December 2015

School Division	Classrooms	Sites	Children Enrolled
Brunswick County	1	1	11
Chesterfield County	9	9	143
Fairfax County	4	4	68
Giles County	2	2	33
Henrico County	10 (54)*	27	364
Norfolk City	9	9	141
Petersburg City	5	1	69
Prince William County	8	8	143
Richmond City	9	6	136
Sussex County	2	1	20
Winchester City	6	4	102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65 (109)</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1,230</b>

\*Note: Henrico opened 10 new classrooms to accommodate 180 new children as well as brought 44 existing VPI classrooms up to VPI+ standards, for a total of 54 VPI+ classrooms. Children in these classes are coded by funding source.

The 364 VPI+ children are composed of 180 children coded as VPI+ only, 23 coded as VPI+/Title I, and 161 coded as VPI+/Head Start.

# VPI Improved as of December 2015

School Division	Classrooms	Sites	Children Enrolled
Brunswick County	3	2	42
Chesterfield County	7	7	99
Fairfax County	0	0	0
Giles County	2	2	26
Henrico County	10(54)*	27	389
Norfolk City	14	12	221
Petersburg City	11	1	152
Prince William County	1	1	16
Richmond City	51	17	600
Sussex County	0	0	0
Winchester City	2	2	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1,574</b>

\*Note: Henrico opened 10 new classrooms to accommodate 180 new children as well as brought 44 existing VPI classrooms up to VPI+ standards.

# Public/Private Partnerships

	All 11 VPI+ Divisions			
	VPI+		VPI Improved	
	n	Percent	n	Percent
Public	1,163	95%	1,574	100%
Private	67	5%	0	0%

VPI+ private, nonprofit partnerships are located in:

- **Fairfax** – Main Street Developmental Center; Creative Learning Center (1 classroom in each)
- **Norfolk** – Norfolk State University Child Development Lab (1 classroom)
- **Richmond** – VCU Health System Child Care at Northside; YMCA of Richmond Child Development Center (1 classroom in each)

**Preliminary Measures  
in VPI+ New Classrooms  
School Year 2015-2016**

# Enrollment/Recruitment

- Continuous efforts in locating and connecting with eligible families in some communities
- Determining eligibility and best placement across programs with various eligibility requirements (e.g., Head Start, VPI, VPI+)
- Use of a single point of entry across programs in a community (e.g., Head Start, VPI, VPI+)
- Increase service to students with identified disabilities

# VPI+ Formative Assessment: GOLD®

- Naturalistic, observational, authentic assessment from Teaching Strategies, LLC
- Aligned with Creative Curriculum® and intended to provide ongoing feedback on student progress to inform instruction
- Children rated by objectives across 5 areas of development based on Widely Held Expectations (WHE)
- WHE are:  
“research based standards detailing what is expected of a child of a particular age [PreK for VPI+]...WHE have a top and bottom range for each area of learning. A child whose raw score falls within this range is demonstrating their skills and knowledge within the widely held expectations”

# VPI+ Formative Assessment: GOLD®

## School Year 2015-2016

Percentage of VPI+ Students across 11 Divisions  
Meeting or Exceeding WHE

Area	Fall	Spring	Growth
Social Emotional	14.2	68	+ 53.8
Physical	30.7	72.4	+ 41.7
Language	20.3	72.3	+ 52
Cognitive	21.4	81.3	+ 59.9
Math	11.1	76.5	+ 65.4

# VPI+ Summative Assessment

## Academic Skills: Literacy

measured by Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) PreK

School Year 2015-2016

**Statistically significant gains from fall to spring on all 6 literacy skills:**

- alphabet recognition
- beginning sound awareness
- name writing
- print/word awareness
- rhyme awareness
- nursery rhyme awareness

Considered important foundational skills for later reading

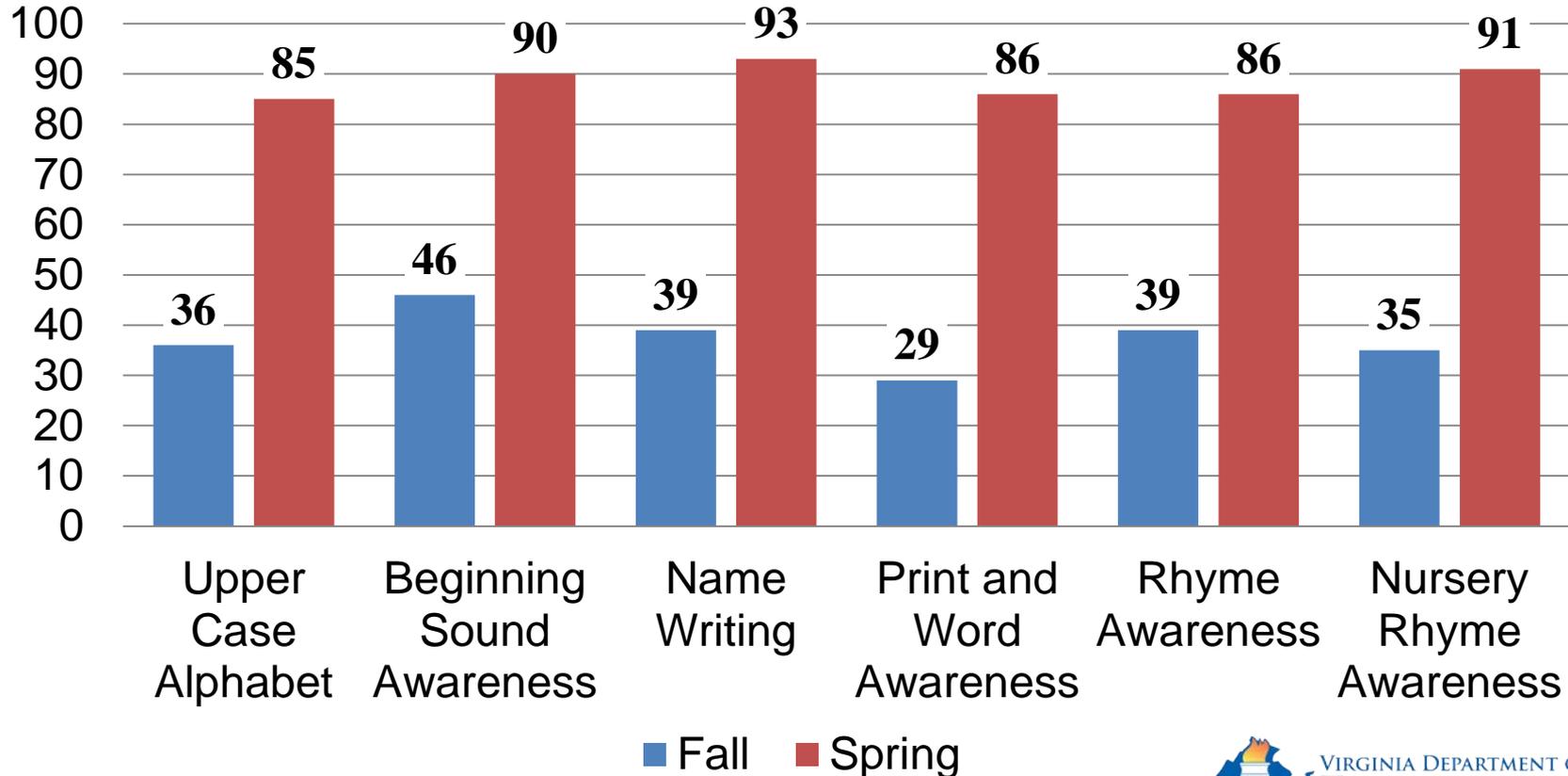
# VPI+ Summative Assessment

## Academic Skills: Literacy

measured by PALS PreK

School Year 2015-2016

Percentage VPI+ Students across 11 divisions  
*Meeting or Exceeding* Developmental Ranges



# VPI+ Summative Assessment:

## Academic Skills: Early Math

as measured by Woodcock Johnson – Applied Problems subtest  
School Year 2015-2016

**Significant gains from fall to spring on early math skills**  
(number sense and counting).

- Small, but statistically significant gains, in raw scores. On average, children's scores increased 1.5 points.
- VPI+ children's average standard scores were about average in the fall and spring of their preschool year.
  - About half of the participating children (52%) scored at or above the mean in the fall.
  - Slightly more (55%) children scored at or above the mean in the spring.

# VPI+ QRIS in Year 1

School Year 2015-2016

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation sent raters to 53 sites

Overall quality rating: 100% of programs rated 3+ (scale of 1-5)

- 33 classrooms received a level 3 rating
- 19 classrooms received a level 4 rating
- 1 classroom received a level 5 rating

## **Grant Goal**

- Year 1: 60% of VPI+ programs will be at a quality level 3
- Year 3: 80% of VPI+ programs will be at a quality level 4 or 5

# VPI+ Family Surveys

Spring of School Year 2015-2016

*“I was worried my child may be delayed, but with the tips and tools they have given me, he’s all ready for Kindergarten.”*

*“[Teacher] made such a positive impact and a wonderful introduction to the world of learning for my daughter.”*

- Data collected uniformly via online tool via text message with paper option available
- Return rate near 54%
- High levels of satisfaction – near 95% *(see Appendix)*
- Improvement noted by 85-95%, depending on domain *(see Appendix)*

*“I had to learn to trust people. Once I did, they helped me with my son, got him help and a full evaluation...”*

*“I can’t explain how thankful I am for the journey we have been on and will continue to see positive results.”*

*We cried real tears together, [Coordinator] and me.”*

# **VPI+ Looking Ahead: School Year 2016-2017**

# VPI+ Enrollment Targets for Year 2 School Year 2016-2017

	VPI+ New	VPI Improved
Brunswick	36	37
Chesterfield	160	112
Fairfax	87	190
Giles	36	27
Henrico	364	500
Norfolk	198	252
Petersburg	90	180
Prince William	192	34
Richmond City	216	600
Sussex	27	0
Winchester	108	36
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,968</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>3,482</b>	

# Divisions Planning to Open New VPI+ Classrooms

## School Year 2016-2017

- Brunswick County Public Schools – 1  
(partnership with Head Start)
- Chesterfield County Public Schools – 1
- Fairfax County Public Schools – 1
- Prince William County Public Schools – 3
- Richmond City Public Schools – 3



By the end of the grant, over 13,000 preschool students will be served in VPI+ or VPI Improved high-quality preschool slots.

Estimated Enrollment Targets*			
Year	New	Improved	Yearly Total
1 (SY 15-16)	1,230	1,574	2,804
2 (SY 16-17)	1,514	1,968	3,482
3 (SY 17-18)	1,584	2,018	3,602
4 (SY 18-19)	1,584	2,068	3,652
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,912</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>13,540</b>

\*Year 1 equals actual enrollment numbers

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# Appendices

# Race/Ethnicity

	All 11 VPI+ Divisions			
	VPI+		VPI Improved	
	n	Percent	n	Percent
<b>Black or African American</b>	656	53%	1,102	70%
<b>Hispanic</b>	293	24%	199	13%
<b>White</b>	149	12%	159	10%
<b>Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</b>	37	3%	37	2%
<b>Two or more races</b>	44	4%	23	1%
<b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b>	< 10	--	< 10	--
<b>Not specified</b>	50	4%	48	3%

# Poverty/Family Income

	All 11 VPI+ Divisions			
	VPI+		VPI Improved	
	n	Percent	n	Percent
<b>≤100% FPL</b>	818	67%	879	56%
<b>101 to 130% FPL</b>	175	14%	347	22%
<b>131 to 200% FPL</b>	237	19%	348	22%

# Home Language

	All 11 VPI+ Divisions			
	VPI+		VPI Improved	
	n	Percent	n	Percent
English	908	74%	1,347	86%
Spanish	231	19%	154	10%
Arabic	24	2%	18	1%
Other language	52	4%	32	2%
Not specified	15	1%	23	1%

**Note:** Other languages specified include Amharic, Bengali or Bangla, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Dari, Farsi, French, Kazakh, Malay, Nepali, Pashto, Somali, Swahili, Turkish, and Twi

# VPI+ Family Surveys

I have noticed improvement in my child's:

persistence	over 85%
health, movement, and coordination	over 85%
thinking skills and problem solving	over 92%
making friends, sharing, playing w/others	over 92%
pre-reading skills and letter names	over 93%
vocabulary and communication skills	over 95%

Involvement and satisfaction:

I learned a new way to help my child learn	over 88%
My child is ready for K because of VPI+	over 94%
I would recommend VPI+ to other families	over 95%