

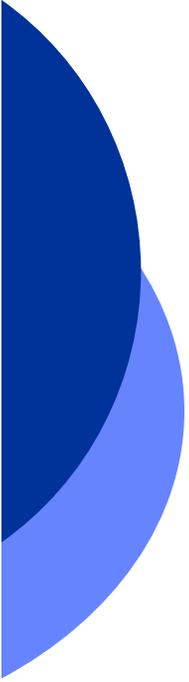
Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) for At-Risk Four-Year-Olds: *Proposed Changes to the VPI Program*

Secretary Thomas R. Morris

Presentation to

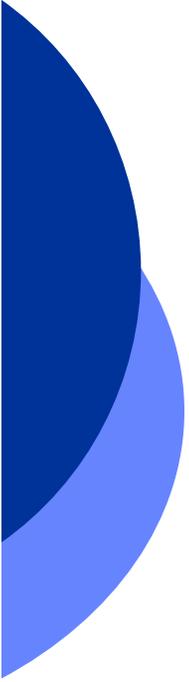
Senate Finance Education Subcommittee

January 31, 2008



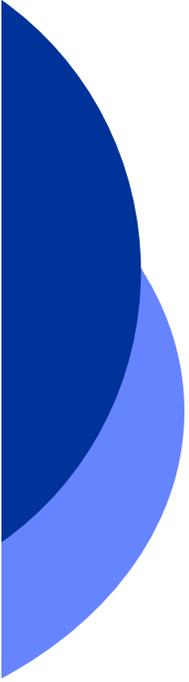
Goal

- Ensure that more at-risk 4-year-olds have access to voluntary high quality preschool services.



Information utilized in planning proposal

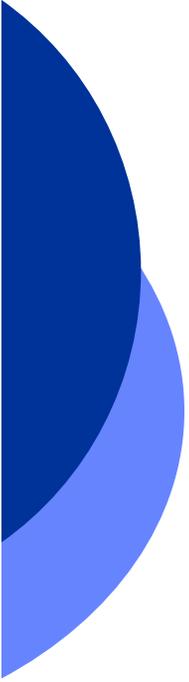
- Start Strong Council
- JLARC Report
 - Pre-K works and VPI is effective
 - Barriers are cost and space
- Initial Evaluation of Pre-K Pilots
 - Mixed delivery system is working



VPI Participation

For the 2007-08 school year:

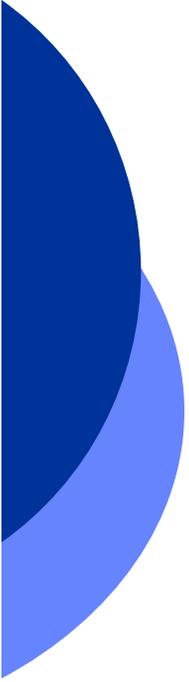
- **Total Students Served: 13,125**
- **106** localities (78%) are participating
 - Of these:
 - **62** (58%) use 100% allocation
- **18** eligible but not participating
- **12** not eligible



Objective of proposal

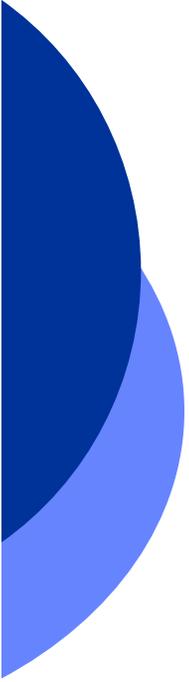
Address issues of:

- **Access** – policies addressing cost and space
- **Quality with Accountability** – QRIS, scholarships, community grants



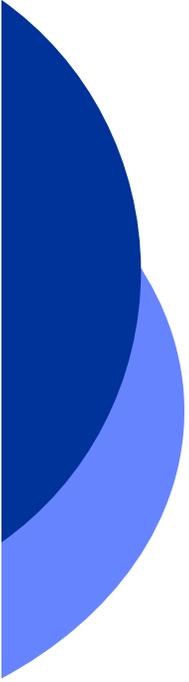
To address the challenge of cost for localities...

- Localities may choose a per pupil rate from \$5,700 to \$6,790
- A cap on the local match, based on the composite index, so that the state will pay at least half of the cost



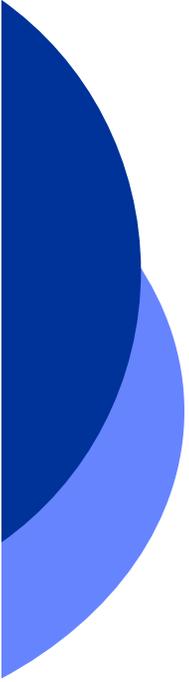
Every locality...

- is ensured funding for a minimum of one preschool classroom
 - Base of 9 slots



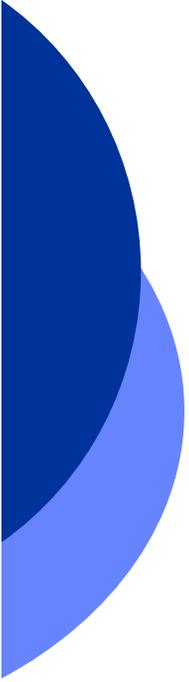
Raise state allocation formula...

- from eligibility for free lunch to free *and* reduced-price lunch



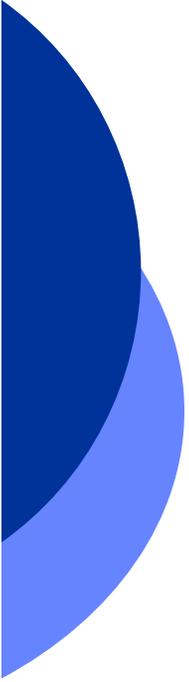
To address the challenge of space for localities...

- Partnership with private partners for at least 10% of any new slots



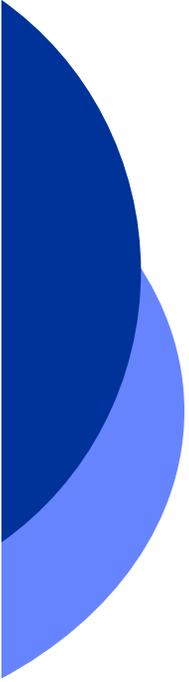
To address the need for stronger program administration...

- Adds staff at DOE for program administration, technical assistance, and evaluation
 - 3 FTE



Expand voluntary high quality preschool...

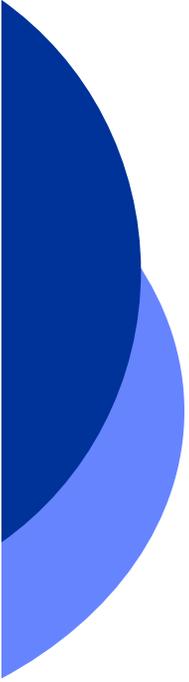
- to serve nearly 20,000 4-year-olds by the end of the biennium
- Current enrollment 13,125
- FY10 19,261



Total Cost of Pre-K Initiatives

Component	FY09	FY10	TOTAL
Pupil Cost	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$29.9
		<i>\$14.9 NGF</i>	
VPI Administration	\$0.34	\$0.34	\$0.7
QRIS	\$1.3	\$3.3	\$4.6
Workforce Dev.	\$1.0	\$3.0	\$4.0
VECF	\$.5	\$1.5	\$2.0
Total Additional Funds (GF,NGF)	\$18.04	\$38.04	\$56.08

\$ in millions



Expansion/Start Up Grants

Applicants to Start a VPI Program 2008-09:

Gloucester County

Loudoun County

Salem City

Applicants to Expand VPI Program 2008-09:

Bristol City

Henrico County

Roanoke City

Fairfax County

King William County

Waynesboro City

Hanover County

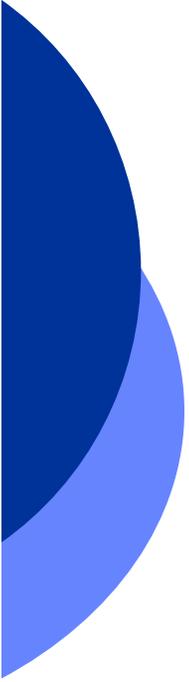
Richmond City

Wise County

Harrisonburg City

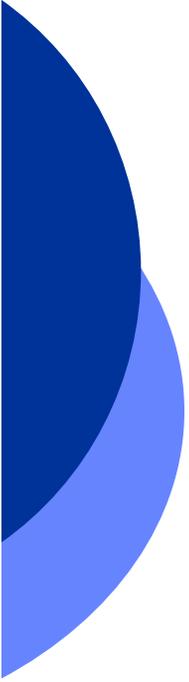
Total Additional At-Risk Four-Year-Olds to be Served: 575

Total Start-up/Expansion Grants: \$1.3 million



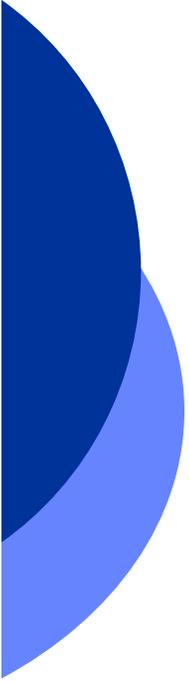
QRIS

- Will measure and assign a quality rating to public and private programs
 - Assessments conducted by trained, independent raters using validated instruments
 - Mentors assist with improving quality of classroom settings
 - QRIS= continuous quality improvement system for providers and consumer education tool for parents



Early Childhood Workforce Development

- To support enhancement of skills and expansion of workforce
- Degree attainment at community colleges and 4-year colleges
- Specialized Early Childhood training



To facilitate local councils

- Funds to the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation for grants to local communities
- Support 14 new communities; sustain 15 existing communities

