


Briefing for the Senate Finance Committee Education Subcommittee


February 1, 2018



Why is School Readiness So Important?

- ▶ Early experiences in first 5 years influence brain development
 - ▶ These learning experiences take place whether in homes, private or faith-based centers, or schools
 - ▶ Path to success in school begins before a child ever enters a K-12 classroom
 - ▶ Families, communities and schools play critical roles in helping children get ready for school
 - ▶ Recognition that early childhood is first step to a strong workforce
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**What is the state's
responsibility regarding
affordable access to quality
early education for at-risk
children?**



What does VECF do?

Mission: the non-partisan steward and capacity-builder for advancing school readiness in the Commonwealth

Established in 2006 and funded in Appropriation Act since FY07 to serve as private partner to the state's early childhood efforts:

- Long-term vision and leadership
- Attract and leverage additional resources (30:1)
- Private-sector innovation and leadership
- Trusted advisor for legislature, administration, and business
 - Joint Subcommittee on VPI
 - School Readiness Committee

Invest in quality, local innovation, data and research



WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FROM THE BEGINNING THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PREPARING ALL VIRGINIANS FOR ALL JOBS

IDENTIFYING DEMAND AND SUPPORTING TRANSPARENT OUTCOMES

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE PIPELINE (SYSTEMWIDE COORDINATION, K-12 EDUCATION, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, VIRGINIA'S WORKFORCE PROGRAMS)

HOUSING OUR TALENT

It is not surprising that talent development ranked higher than other factors for economic growth in our survey. Businesses need people with the right skills to help them grow, thrive, and prosper. They have invested billions in employee training and development programs with the belief that talent is a critical factor to their overall productivity.

Still, Virginia's business community remains concerned about the availability of a well-trained, qualified workforce. When they cannot fill open jobs, they are less productive, hurting not only their bottom line but the state's overall potential for economic growth. Likewise, businesses need appropriate housing in the communities where they operate to attract and retain skilled talent.

The recommendations here offer a policy framework to ensure Virginia continues to have a strong and capable workforce.

CHAIR

BILL ERMATINGER

*Executive Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer
Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FROM THE BEGINNING THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Improve access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education for Virginia's working families
- Encourage employer policies and strategies that support access to high-quality early learning for families
- Protect the early education workforce by ensuring access to affordable, competency-building credentials and exploring strategies that value and retain this talent pool
- Expand public-private partnerships and mixed delivery of the Virginia Preschool Initiative
- Establish an integrated early childhood data system to inform financing and policymaking decisions and promote accountability
- Create an integrated public-private financing model that promotes innovative, flexible, and collaborative approaches to high-quality early childhood services for at-risk children
- Explore performance-based financing policies that incentivize and sustain high-quality early childhood services as part of Virginia's quality improvement framework

PREPARING ALL VIRGINIANS FOR ALL JOBS ELEVATING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

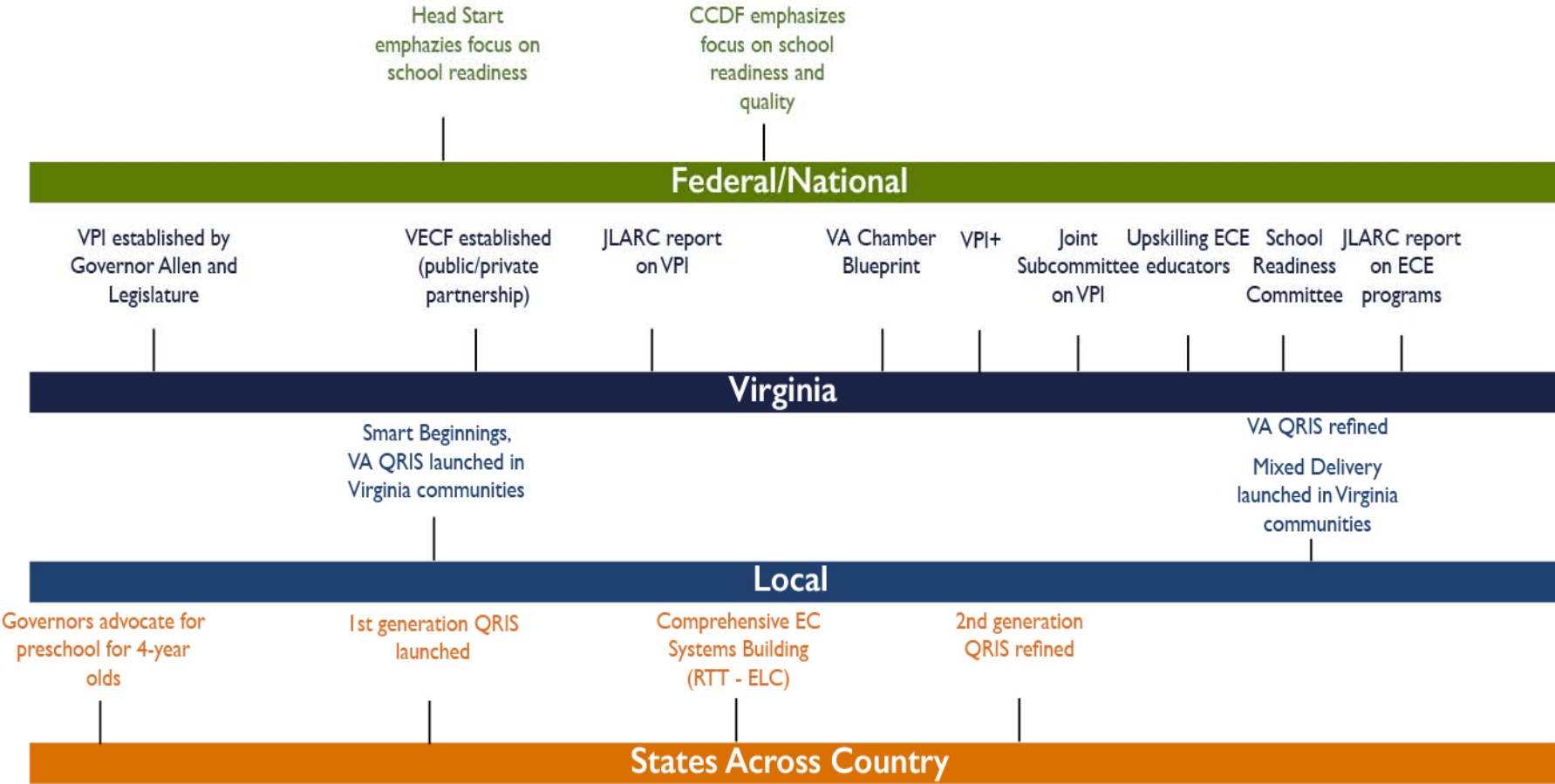
- Attract, retain, and expand high-need credentials and degrees that are linked to the needs of businesses and are crucial to the economy (e.g. computer science, engineering) through incentives and other tools

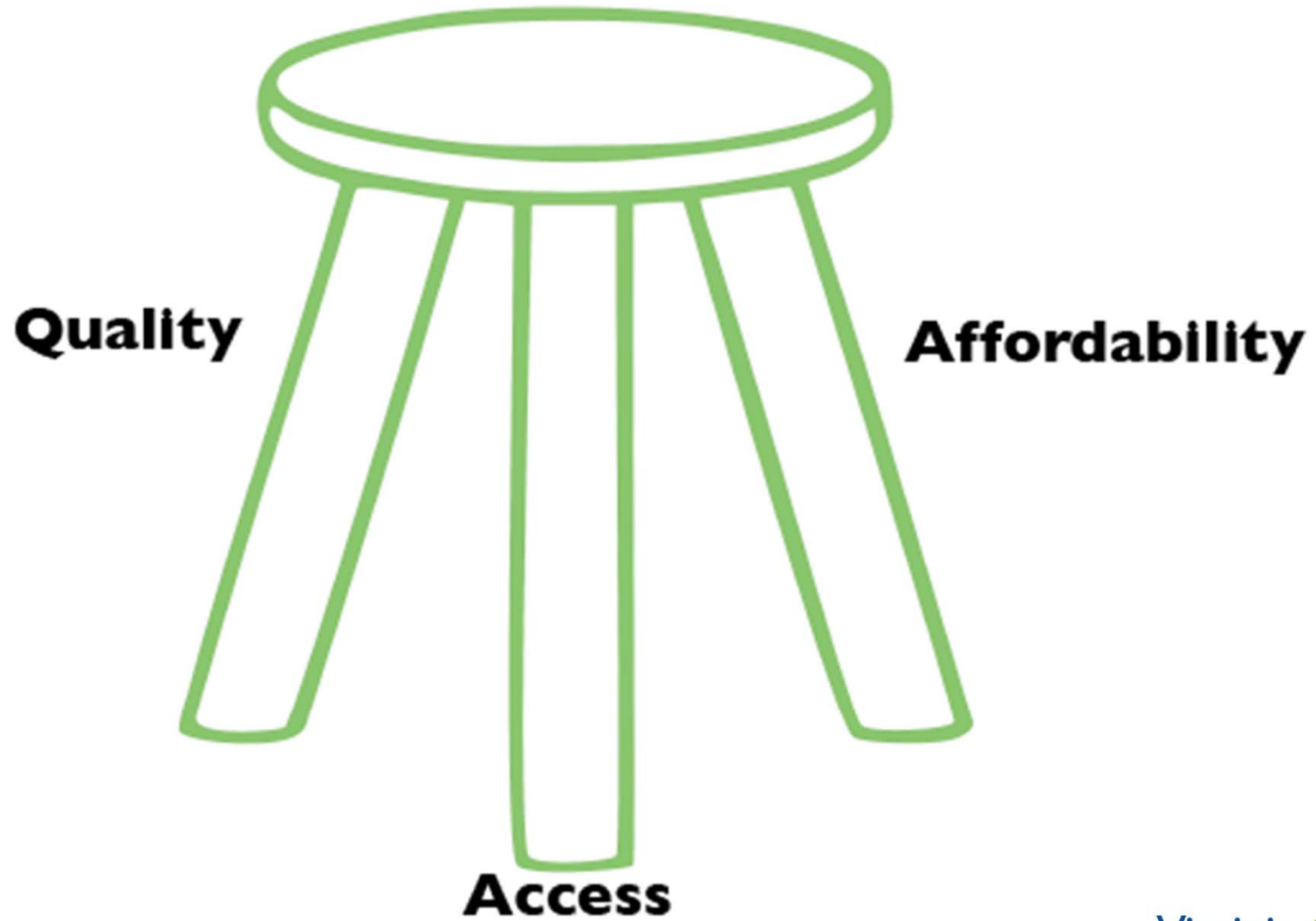
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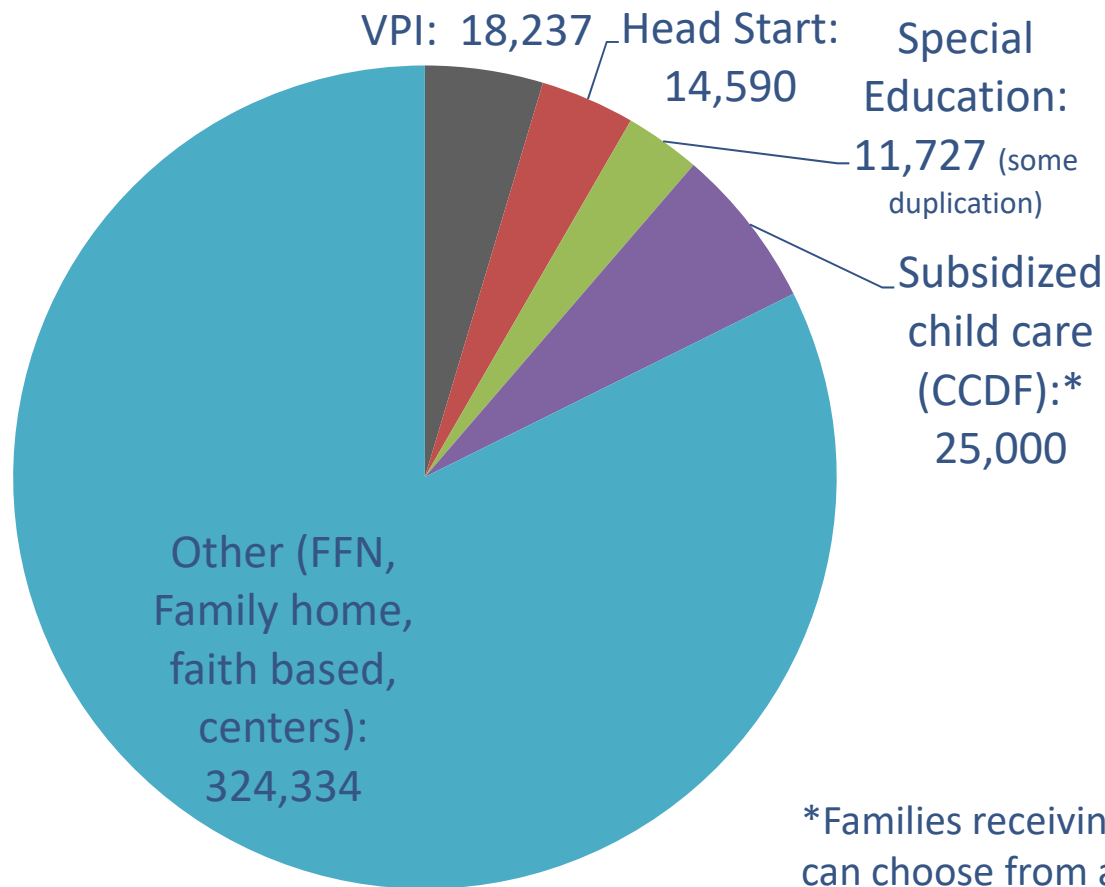
2015

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VA children birth to 5 in early learning programs



*Families receiving CCDF subsidies can choose from a variety of child care types, including family home, faith-based, and center-based providers.



Invest in....

- Strategies that address and incentivize

AFFORDABILITY


ACCESS

QUALITY

not in isolation but in an
integrated way



Current and Future Opportunities

- Joint Subcommittee on VPI
 - Mixed Delivery Preschool Grants (**10**)
 - Pathfinder Scholarships for Early Educators (**1,444/2,229**)
 - Dual Enrollment; Registered Apprenticeships
 - Recommendations for VPI (**7**)
 - School Readiness Committee
 - Governance, Financing/Compensation Directions
 - Early Childhood Articulation Pathways
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council
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Integrated Early Childhood Fund





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