

Governor Kaine's
Proposed Budget Amendments
for Pre-K-12 Education in the 2006-2008 Biennium

Presentation to the Education Subcommittee
of the Senate Finance Committee

Presented by the Honorable Thomas R. Morris
Secretary of Education

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Overview

- ▶ Context for amendments
- ▶ Major amendments
 - Preschool pilots
 - Early Intervention Reading Initiative
 - Algebra Readiness Initiative
 - Teacher Salaries

Context for amendments

Virginia's education agencies are taking a comprehensive, integrated approach to education.

- ▶ All components of system working together through P-16 Education Council:
 - Early childhood educators
 - Department of Education
 - Board of Education and local school boards
 - SCHEV, Community College System, and public and private 4-year colleges and universities
 - Business Leaders

- ▶ Key transition points
 - Into kindergarten (school readiness)
 - Learning to read by third grade (reading to learn)
 - Middle to high school transition
 - Algebra I as key stumbling block
 - College and workplace readiness

Preschool Pilots

- ▶ Start Strong Council appointed by Governor
 - Business leaders
 - State and local elected officials
 - Teachers and administrators
 - Public and private providers of early childhood education

- ▶ Council activities
 - Study research and state, national and international practices
 - Task forces to explore issues in depth
 - Public discussion sessions to collect feedback

- ▶ Council recommendations
 - Provide coordinating infrastructure to ensure high-quality services
 - Quality ratings system
 - Professional development system
 - Use data to guide decision-making
 - Collect and analyze outcome data from existing programs and support information systems to track quality and outcomes

▶ Council recommendations (continued)

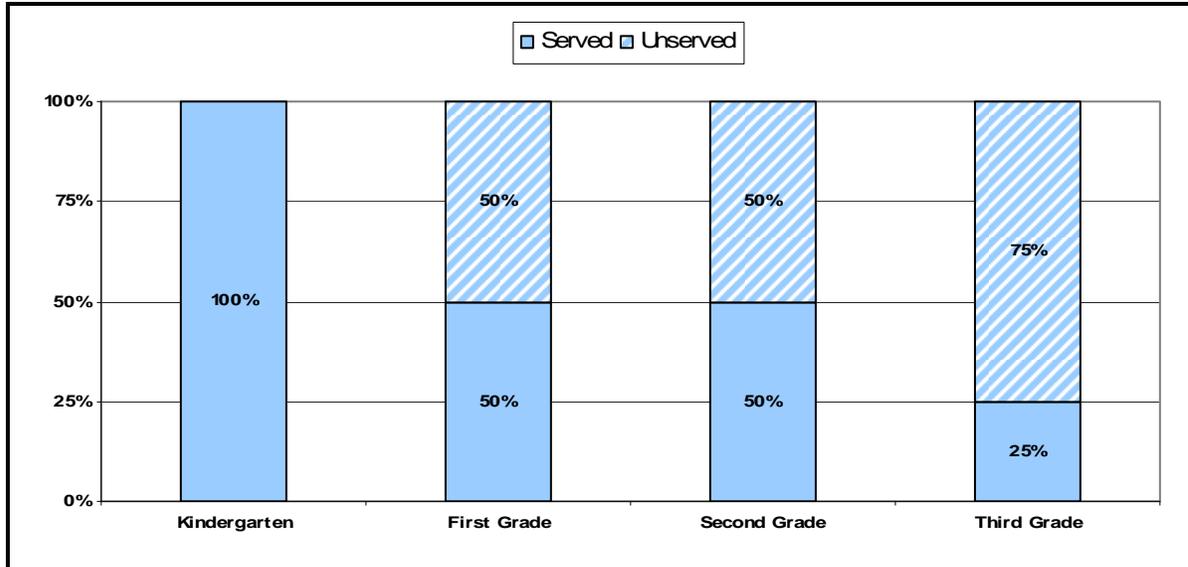
- Strengthen and build on existing programs
 - Improve utilization and coordination of existing programs
 - Coordinate recruitment and registration policies and practices for existing public programs
 - Support governance structures at state and local levels
 - Pilot use of quality ratings system and public-private partnership to provide high quality preschool, with several innovative features
- ▶ Kathy Glazer will provide additional details about the design and selection of pilots.

Early Intervention Reading Initiative

- ▶ Third grade reading is a strong predictor of later academic success.
 - 95% of students who passed the 3rd grade test also passed the 5th grade test
 - 44% of students who failed the 3rd grade test also failed the 5th grade test

- ▶ Early Intervention Reading Initiative
 - 2.5 hours per week of additional individualized instruction
 - Targets children who demonstrate reading deficiencies as reflected in PALS (pre-literacy screening)
 - Effectiveness: about 50 percent of students below the benchmark upon entering kindergarten are no longer identified as needing additional literacy instruction the following spring
 - Current funding covers only half of children in first and second grade, and one-quarter of children in third grade, identified as needing intervention

Current coverage of Early Intervention Reading Initiative



- ▶ The proposed amendment will provide funds to serve 100% of children in Kindergarten through second grade.

Algebra Readiness Initiative

- ▶ Approved by the General Assembly for implementation in FY02
- ▶ Purpose: provide intervention services to students at risk of failing Algebra I end-of-course test
- ▶ Components:
 - Diagnostic pre-test to identify student's mathematical strengths and weaknesses
 - 2.5 hours of additional weekly instruction
 - Post-test to monitor progress
- ▶ Students targeted for diagnostic test:
 - Did not pass the end-of-course mathematics test
 - Performed below average in their previous year's mathematics program
 - Were not successful in previous intervention programs

- ▶ Several intervention models including:
 - Individual or small group instruction
 - Common skill/strand deficit program
 - Before- and after-school programs
 - Saturday school
 - In-school tutoring by instructional aide
 - Computer-assisted instruction
 - Additional class period with licensed teacher
 - Summer school
 - Other research-based instructional model

- ▶ New middle school math assessments highlight the need for additional math instruction in middle school

- ▶ Current funding based on number of students in grades 7 and 8 in each school division x percentage of students who failed eighth grade SOL assessment in division

- ▶ Proposed amendment adds sixth grade students to calculation

Teacher Salaries

- ▶ The quality of teaching is the most important in-school factor in improving student achievement
- ▶ Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers is key strategy for meeting student achievement goals
- ▶ Virginia rankings:
 - 28th nationally in teacher salaries (2006)
 - Gap of over 10 percent, or \$4,906, between Virginia's and the national average teacher salaries
 - Fourth among SREB states (2005)
 - \$2,472 above regional average but more than \$7,500 below neighboring Maryland, the top Southern state
- ▶ Last year:
 - 4% salary increase
 - process for regular performance evaluations
 - 1.5% reserve for FY 2008 teacher salary increases
- ▶ Proposed amendment:
 - Increases salaries for instructional and support personnel by an additional 1.5%
 - Aligns teacher raises with the 3% raises already in the budget for state workforce

Does preschool work in Virginia?

- ▶ Existing statewide samples and local evaluations indicate that VPI is effective for those students who participate
- ▶ To facilitate long-term evaluation, new DOE data requirements implemented this year
 - All state-funded preschool participants will be included in DOE student database to allow longitudinal analyses, e.g., impact of preschool on third grade reading achievement
 - PALS records will be linked to school records to assist in tracking student progress
 - Pre-K experience of entering kindergarten students will be collected to assess impact of pre-kindergarten experience on student achievement
- ▶ Statewide data:
 - Sample of VPI participants in fall 2005 and spring 2006
 - At beginning of the school year, less than 42% met the benchmark on 5 of the 6 measures on the PALS Pre-K test. By end of year, over 85% met or exceeded the benchmarks.
 - 87% of kindergarteners identified as having participated in VPI met the PALS-K language and literacy benchmarks compared to 82% of kindergarteners statewide and from all socio-economic levels.

▶ Local evaluations

- Responsibility for evaluation of Virginia Preschool Initiative programs is at the local level
- Several localities have assessed the effect of VPI on academic performance and other indicators
- Arlington County: most comprehensive study
 - Dramatic results in closing the achievement gap for children from low-income families, black children and English language learners
- Other studies: Norfolk, Lynchburg, Williamsburg-James City County, Albemarle and Newport News, all documented gains
- Dr. Stephen C. Jones, Superintendent of Schools Norfolk Public Schools will present results