



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: April 27, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: *Virginia Early Childhood Inclusion Guidance Document*

The [Virginia Guidelines for Early Childhood Inclusion](#) (PDF) is now available on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) website. The original and accessible versions are on the [Early Childhood Special Education webpage](#).

The purpose of this guidance document is to assist Virginia's local school divisions and early childhood communities in identifying, developing, and sustaining inclusive opportunities within high-quality early childhood programs for two-, three-, and four-year-old preschoolers with disabilities. In accordance with the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* and the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*, preschoolers who are eligible for special education and related services are entitled to placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) alongside their peers without disabilities with supplementary aids and services. This guide addresses system and program related factors that impact the LRE and appropriate service provision for preschoolers with disabilities eligible for special education services.

For additional information about the guidelines, please contact [Dawn Hendricks](#) ✉, Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator, by email or by phone at 804-225-2675.

SMC/DH/dj