
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: March 13, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Virginia Preschool Initiative Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds

Governor Northam’s proposed budget includes a historic investment in early childhood care and education. The majority of the proposed funds and program changes will increase access to preschool for three- and four-year-old children who are economically disadvantaged or have identified disabilities through the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). If approved, the proposed revisions will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

To support opportunities for increasing access to high-quality preschool classrooms for at-risk three-year-olds, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the competitive *VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds*. This pilot provides selected school divisions with the opportunity to serve their community’s most vulnerable children for two consecutive years in VPI classrooms. Providing these children with two years of quality early learning experiences are essential in preparing them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Pending final approval by the General Assembly and Governor, funds will be distributed to selected pilot divisions based on an allocation formula providing the state share of $6,959 per three-year-olds in full-day programs and $3,480 in half-day programs. Slots served through the VPI Pilot Three-Year-Olds will follow the same programmatic requirements as typical VPI slots. Divisions that are selected to participate in the pilot may serve three-year-olds in single-age or mixed-age (three- and four-year-olds) classrooms.

Divisions seeking this opportunity must complete the *VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds* *Application Package* ([Attachment A](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/065-20a.docx)), which is due on May 15, 2020. Applying for the VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds is the only way a division can serve three-year-olds with VPI funds.

Additional information regarding the *VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds* was provided during a March 5, 2020 [webinar](https://zoom.us/rec/play/6cJ-du36_zg3SdaQsQSDUfItW466KP2s1SQY_PYFyEngVnUEZwXwM-dGaucRWw12nntGS3UqHb3bgDkJ?continueMode=true) for Pre-K Coordinators.

If you have additional questions regarding the pilot, please contact Dr. Mark Allan, Early Childhood Project Manager by phone at (804) 225-3665 or by email at Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/MRA/lh

**Attachment**

1. [Virginia Preschool Initiative Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds Application Package (Word)](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/065-20a.docx)