**VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE**

**PILOT FOR SERVING THREE-YEAR-OLDS**

**2020-2021**

**Application Package**

**Virginia Department of Education**

**Division of School Readiness**

**Office of Early Childhood**

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

**May 15, 2020**

**Submission of Grant Application:** In order to be considered for selection, applicants must submit all required information with complete responses. The application must be emailed to earlychildhood@doe.virginia.gov **no later than 4 p.m. on May 15, 2020.**



**VPI PILOT FOR SERVING THREE-YEAR-OLDS**

## Background and Purpose

All Virginia children are capable of and deserve to enter school ready. Yet more than 38,000 children entered Virginia kindergarten classrooms this fall not ready to fulfil their potential.

* According to the 2019 Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), **44% of Virginia children** started school without the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed to be successful in school. Most concerning is that **55% of children from economically disadvantaged families** and **66% of children with special needs** did not enter school fully prepared for success.
* Virginia ranks 33rd nationally in preschool funding; as a result, 1 in 4 economically disadvantaged four-year-olds and 3 out of 4 economically disadvantaged three-year-olds lack access to quality preschool.
* 75% of Virginia’s early childhood programs that receive public funding do not participate in the state’s voluntary quality measurement system; vulnerable families as well as policymakers, practitioners and community leaders do not have uniform information on quality.
* Virginia ranks **37th nationally** in **early childhood governance** and lacks a uniform oversight and regulatory framework, making it difficult for communities to strengthen their local systems.

In response to more than 15 state reports on early childhood, Executive Directive 4, and stakeholder input from across the Commonwealth, Governor Northam has put forth a comprehensive early childhood care and education package to better prepare every Virginia child for kindergarten by:

1. Closing access gaps for three and four year-olds in low-income families who could most benefit;
2. Increasing classroom quality by supporting a new uniform measurement and improvement system, in which all publicly-funded early childhood education programs will participate;
3. Increasing teacher quality by providing feedback and individualized supports to educators, reducing turnover and making pathways into the profession affordable; and
4. Consolidating state oversight for early childhood education programs at the Virginia Department of Education.

The Governor’s budget includes significant financial investments that will increase access for at-risk three- and four-year-olds. The *VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds* will increase access for at-risk three-year-olds to high-quality preschool programs so that more Virginia children can access a quality, two-year preschool experience that prepares them for kindergarten.

# General Grant Information

# VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds

## Eligibility

All local lead governmental agencies administering a VPI program are eligible to apply for the VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds. School divisions are the primary lead agency for VPI; however, in some localities this is the local Department of Social Services. For the purpose of this grant application, the localities will be referred to as school divisions.

Children are eligible for services through the VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds if they are residents of Virginia, unserved by Head Start, turn three-years-old by September 30, 2020, and meet either at-risk criteria determined by the school division or VPI eligibility criteria established by the state as provided in the [VPI Guidelines](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/preschool/vpi/index.shtml).

* Three-year-olds may be served in same or separate classrooms from four-year-olds.
* VPI programmatic requirements will be applied.
* This will be a pilot program. Three-year-olds will not be added to the VPI state allocation formula.

## Pilot and Proposed VPI Expansions and Enhancements

The following VPI expansions and enhancements, pending final approval, will be available as a part of the pilot program:

* Community Provider Add-on: Up to $2,500 per three-year-old slot in a community-provider setting.
* Waiver for Local Eligibility Criteria: Localities may apply for a waiver to increase local eligibility criteria above 15% of their total slots (three- and four-year-olds).
* Increased Ratio: Increased student-to-adult ratio allowances will apply.
* *CLASS™* Observations and Professional Development: Expectations for *CLASS™* observations will apply.

## Proposed Distribution of Funds

Pending final approval by the General Assembly and Governor in late spring 2020, funds will be distributed to selected pilot school divisions based on an allocation formula providing the state share of a $6,959 per three-year old. Funds to half-day programs shall be funded based on the state share of $3,480.

A local match, based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay, shall be required. For purposes of meeting the local match, localities may use local expenditures for existing qualifying programs, however, at least fifty percent of the local match will be cash and no more than fifty percent will be in-kind. In-kind contributions are defined as cash outlays that are made by the locality that benefit the program but are not directly charged to the program. The value of fixed assets cannot be considered as an in-kind contribution. State funds and required local matching funds for the pilot cannot be used for capital outlay Philanthropic or other private funds may be contributed to the locality to be appropriated in their local budget and then utilized as local match.

Selected pilot school divisions will report each child served via the fall 2020 Student Record Collection process. Each at-risk three-year-old served in a school setting or by a community provider will need to receive the appropriate SRC funding code for a three-year-old. A new funding code for three-year-olds will be established and made available.

State funds for VPI slots for three-year-olds will be distributed via electronic payments to school divisions on a recurring basis starting prior to the end of 2020.

## Selection and Competitive Priority Ranking

If requests for state funds to serve at-risk three-year-olds equal more than the appropriated amount of state funds for 2020-2021, VDOE staff will prioritize applications using the following for priority ranking:

* Communities with limited childcare options;
* Programs serving children in private, mixed-delivery settings; or
* Communities that demonstrate full support of public and private providers.

Applicants with the highest priority rankings will be considered first for state pilot funds. In addition, availably of slots and state funds will be maximized through the reallocation of unused VPI slots for wait list three-year-old slots.

## Notification

No later than July 1, 2020, the individual serving as the grant application contact for the division will be notified via email as to the final status of the pilot application (i.e., revisions needed, selected, not selected) once a decision is made in spring 2019. School division superintendents of divisions selected for the pilot will be notified via a Superintendent’s Email.

## Webinar

All interested school divisions are strongly encouraged to have the grant application contact review the recorded [VPI Enhancements and Expansions Webinar](https://zoom.us/rec/play/6cJ-du36_zg3SdaQsQSDUfItW466KP2s1SQY_PYFyEngVnUEZwXwM-dGaucRWw12nntGS3UqHb3bgDkJ?continueMode=true) held on March 5, 2020.

# COVER PAGE AND ASSURANCES

| School Division: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Pilot Contact: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Title: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Telephone: | Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Statement of Assurances

Should the school division be selected for the *VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds* in support of activities proposed in this application, the authorized signature certifies to the Virginia Department of Education that the authorized official will:

1. Conduct activities funded by this pilot in compliance with laws, regulations, and VPI Guidelines;
2. Use funds in to serve at-risk three-year-olds who are residents of Virginia and unserved by Head Start and in accordance with the VPI Guidelines ;
3. Provide leadership and support for the division’s plan to implement a pilot program for serving at-risk three-year-olds in VPI classrooms; and
4. Submit fall 2020 and spring 2021 Student Record Collection data for each three-year-old served.

**Certification Statement:**

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is correct, that the filing of this application is duly authorized, and that this organization will comply with the Statement of Assurances.

| **Print Division Superintendent Name:** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| **Signature:** |  |
| **Date**: | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# VPI Pilot for Serving Three-Year-Olds

# Projected Numbers and Pilot Planning

## School-based Settings: Provide a projection of the number of at-risk three-year-olds to be served in school-based settings during the 2020-2021 school year.

| Projected number of full-day 3 year-olds served in school-based setting | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| Projected number of full-day VPI classrooms serving 3 year-olds in school-based setting | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Projected number of half-day 3 year-olds served in school-based setting | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Projected number of half-day VPI classrooms serving 3 year-olds in school-based setting | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| If any classroom(s)will operate for less than 180 instructional days or 990 hours of instruction for the 2020-2021 school year, enter the projected start date for the classroom(s) to open. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Community-provider Settings:** Provide a projection of the number of at-risk three-year-olds to be served in community-provider settings during the 2020-2021 school year.

| Projected number of full-day 3 year-olds served in community-provider setting | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| Projected number of full-day VPI classrooms serving 3 year-olds | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Projected number of half-day 3 year-olds served in school-based setting | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Projected number of half-day VPI classrooms serving 3 year-olds | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| If any classroom(s)will operate for less than 180 instructional days or 990 hours of instruction for the 2020-2021 school year, enter the projected start date for the classroom(s) to open. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**TOTALS**

| Total number of three- year-old slots requested (full-day) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| Total number of three-year-old slots requested (half-day)  | Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Pilot Planning

| Describe the broad stakeholder support for the implementation of a VPI pilot program for serving at-risk three-year-olds in your community (e.g., community-providers, Head Start, early childhood educators, early childhood special education leaders, school-based administrators).  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| Explain how the school division will maximize federal and state funds to preserve existing birth to five slots already being implemented in the community (supplementing not supplanting existing slots – increase access for more at-risk children).  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How will the school division collaborate among the local department of social services, programs accepting child care subsidy payments, and providers for Head Start, private child care, and early childhood special education and early intervention programs? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Describe how expanding access to at-risk three-year-olds will support inclusive practices of children with identified special needs? | Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Competitive Priorities

| Describe the availability of childcare options for three-year-olds in your community and provide general estimates of the number available?  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| --- | --- |
| Describe your school division’s current and future partnerships for serving VPI children in community-provider settings including any participation in VECF mixed-delivery grants.  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Describe how the community demonstrates full support of public and private providers for early childhood birth to five-years-old.  | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# APPLICATION GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

## Definitions

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) Classroom**:** A VPI classroom is any classroom with one or more VPI eligible student funded by state VPI funds.

Early Childhood Special Education Self-Contained Classroom: An ESCE self-contained classroom is taught by an Early Childhood Special Education teacher.  It may be a reverse inclusion classroom that also serves non-disabled children from the community.

*CLASS™* Observations: Classroom observations using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool. *CLASS™* observations may be conducted by local observers (coordinated by the local division) or they may be conducted by external observers (provided by the University of Virginia).

## Resources

[*VPI Guidelines*](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/preschool/vpi/index.shtml)***–*** *Guidelines apply to 2019-2020 school year. They will be updated early this spring for 2020-2021.*

[Recording of January 8 VPI Updates Webinar](https://zoom.us/rec/share/vdFfBbH3rERJE6v3yE32RIkTRYTeT6a8hyZL-KUNmR1-GQU_umTaWf-aosEbnbjF?startTime=1578505604000) ***–*** *These slides were shared with all PreK coordinators via email.*

[Guidance for Local *CLASS™* Observations-](https://curry.virginia.edu/sites/default/files/CASTL-Projects/CLASS-PD/Local%20CLASS%20Observation%20Best%20Practices%20Guidebook%2011.19.pdf) *Information on how to plan for and conduct local CLASS™ observations in preschool classrooms.*

[Teachstone](https://teachstone.com/planning-for-class-observation-implementation/) Website: *This website is provided to assist organizations in preparing for CLASS™ observations. Specific guidance on how CLASS™ can be used to support children with special needs is also* [*available*](http://info.teachstone.com/resources/research/special-needs-class-tool-report)*.*