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| ECCE Logo | UNIFYING EARLY CHILDHOODOVERVIEW OF THE CHILD CARE TRANSITION |

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed [legislation](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14.1/section22.1-289.03/) directing the Board of Education (BOE) to establish a unified public-private system for early care and education, administered by the Department of Education (VDOE). This legislation effectively establishes the VDOE as the single point of accountability for school readiness in the Commonwealth.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CHILD CARE?

* Effective July 1, 2021 VDOE will be in charge of child care licensing and monitoring as well as child care assistance programs.
* The Board will set policy priorities for early childhood through regulations to be implemented by the VDOE.
* Early childhood care and education services will continue to be offered through local school divisions, private non-profit and for-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, family day homes, local governmental agencies, and other settings.

## CHILD CARE LICENSING AND MONITORING

* VDOE will be responsible for regulating, inspecting, and monitoring child care programs starting on July 1, 2021. Child care licensing staff will become VDOE employees.
* All licensing rules and regulations will transfer to VDOE as-is. This means child care providers will **not** need to change how they operate to stay licensed.

## CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

* VDOE will become “Lead Agency” for the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the primary source of funding for child care assistance and quality improvement initiatives.
* VDOE will oversee and set policy for the [Child Care Subsidy Program](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/assistance.cgi) for working families with low incomes. However, VDSS will continue to administer the program via its network of 120 Local Departments of Social Services. Families will still go to their local social service office to apply for assistance and providers will still apply to become a [subsidy vendor](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/interested_subsidy_vendors.cgi) through VDSS.

## WHAT’S NEXT?

* VDOE is launching an Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) to advise the BOE on early childhood policies and programs. ECAC members reflect the diversity of early childhood programs, children’s advocates, and child development specialists in the Commonwealth.
* VDOE will review all early childhood policies, regulations, and procedures in partnership with the ECAC and the BOE. Recommended changes will be brought to the Board in late 2021 and early 2022.
* Over the next three years, VDOE will build and implement a uniform measurement and improvement system for all child care programs that accept public funding.
* More information regarding the transition is available on the [Building a Unified Early Childhood System website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/build-unified-early-childhood-system/index.shtml). If you have questions or recommendations, please contact EarlyChildhood@doe.virginia.gov