

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: I

Date: May 28, 2015

Title	Report on the Virginia Federal Preschool Expansion Grant (VPI+)		
Presenter	Dr. Mark R. Allan, Coordinator, Preschool Expansion Grant, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, Division of Instruction		
E-mail	Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov	Phone	804-225-3665

Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
X	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 4: The Board of Education will work cooperatively with partners to promote new and innovative partnerships that help to ensure that all children enter kindergarten with the skills they need for success in school.

On December 10, 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that the United States Department of Education had awarded Virginia a \$17.5 million federal Preschool Expansion Grant that will allow the Commonwealth to serve additional at-risk four-year-olds in new, high-quality preschool classes and will fund enhanced services to children in existing preschool classes. The Preschool Expansion Grant, called VPI Plus (VPI+), will build on the success of the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) that has supported school readiness of at-risk four-year-olds since 1996. The federal performance period for the VPI+ grant is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2018.

Summary of Important Issues:

The VPI+ will meet and exceed every element of the VPI program. The VPI+ model includes use of evidenced-based curriculum and formative assessments, summative assessments, professional development and coaching for teachers, classroom-level evaluations, and community partnerships to provide comprehensive services. Eleven school divisions will participate in VPI+ allowing an opportunity to field test and refine VPI+ innovations throughout Virginia to ensure high-quality programs, appropriate flexibility tailored to local circumstances, and broad replicability.

By the end of the grant period, approximately 5,200 four-year-olds at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line will be served in new VPI+ classrooms, and approximately 8,028 four-year-olds will be served in existing preschool classrooms where increased services (e.g., community partnerships to provide systematic comprehensive services, family engagement for hard-to-reach and culturally and linguistically diverse families, professional development and coaching for staff) will be supported with grant funds.

The participating school divisions are as follows:

- Brunswick County Public Schools
- Chesterfield County Public Schools
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Giles County Public Schools
- Henrico County Public Schools
- Norfolk City Public Schools
- Petersburg City Public Schools
- Prince William County Public Schools
- Richmond City Public Schools
- Sussex County Public Schools
- Winchester City Public Schools

The Virginia Department of Education is the lead agency in VPI+; however, other partners include the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia Health Department, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, University of Virginia's Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL), the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success, and other key stakeholders across the Commonwealth that have an interest in improving learning experiences for young children.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

There are significant requirements of the federal Preschool Expansion Grant that must be implemented by the Virginia Department of Education and participating school divisions. Federal grant funds are being used at the state and local levels for VPI+ staffing and for other necessary resources to meet grant requirements.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Staff will provide further reports to the Board as the grant progresses.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the Report on the Virginia Federal Preschool Expansion Grant (VPI+).



Virginia Preschool Initiative-**PLUS**

Virginia Board of Education

May 28, 2015



U.S. Department of Education

Preschool Grants

Two types of grants:

- Development Grants are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of *four-year-olds* and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTTT-ELC) grant.
- Expansion Grants are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of *four-year-olds* or have received an RTTT-ELC grant. (*Virginia*)

VPI+ Overview

Year 1 Federal Award Amount

- \$ 17,500,000 (3 additional years)
- January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Lead Agency

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Partnerships and Support

- Eleven Divisions and local public-private partnerships
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation/Smart Beginnings
- University of Virginia's Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL)
- Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

VPI+ Selection

Criteria for School Division Selection

1. Poverty Concentration: Percentage of students eligible for free/reduced lunch
 2. Poverty Magnitude: Number of Title I schools
 3. Unmet Need: Number of unused VPI slots
 4. Unmet Need: Percentage of students not meeting the PALS-K benchmark
- Participating School Divisions: *Brunswick County, Chesterfield County, Fairfax County, Giles County, Henrico County, Norfolk City, Petersburg City, Prince William County, Richmond City, Sussex County, Winchester City*

Model for New VPI+ Classrooms

- Full-day program
- Highly qualified teachers
- Developmentally-appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based curricula and formative assessments
- Evidence-based professional development
- Coaching for implementation of best practices for early learning environments
- Partnerships with private preschool providers

Model for New VPI+ Classrooms

- Community partnerships to promote family access to services with targeted outreach for hard-to-reach families
- Accessible comprehensive services provided
- Summative assessments
- Virginia Star Quality Initiative – Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Model for Improved PreK Classrooms

An “improved” state preschool program slot is a slot that already existed at the time of Virginia’s grant application and that will be improved by any of the following allowable improvements using grant funds:

- extending programs from half-day to full-day;
- decreasing child-to-staff ratios;
- employing and compensating a teacher with a bachelor’s degree;
- providing evidence-based professional development and coaching; or
- providing comprehensive services.



By the end of the grant, over 13,000 more preschool students will be served in new or improved high-quality preschool slots.



By the end of the grant term, the goal is for VPI+ students to exceed state and national averages on all measures for children who are economically disadvantaged, with a steady increase in meeting each benchmark annually.

VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- VPI+ state coordinator, grants and reports manager, and preschool program specialist have been hired.
- VPI+ technical assistance webinars for school divisions were held on January 27, March 2, March 3, March 6, and March 25.
- VPI+ Implementation Team has been established and the first quarterly meeting was held on April 30, 2015.
- Virginia's budget and Statement of Work and school divisions' budget summaries have been submitted to the United States Departments of Education and Health and Human Services for review.

VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- VPI+ grants have been awarded to 11 school divisions through the Notification of Grant Award (NOGA) process.
- Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the VPI+ curriculum and formative assessment was posted on April 10, 2015. Proposals were due to VDOE on May 11, 2015.
- RFPs for the program evaluation and summative assessments was posted on May 8, 2015. Proposals are due to VDOE on June 8, 2015.
- A VPI+ Cross-Organizational Data Team has been established and had its first meeting on April 9, 2015.

VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

Proposed Number of New and Improved Slots* as Reported by Divisions April 10, 2015								
	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019	
	New	Improved	New	Improved	New	Improved	New	Improved
Brunswick	18	48	36	48	36	48	36	48
Chesterfield	144	112	160	112	160	112	160	112
Fairfax	70	-	70	190	70	240	70	290
Giles	36	27	36	27	36	27	36	27
Henrico	180	500	180	500	180	500	180	500
Norfolk	207	252	207	252	207	252	207	252
Petersburg	90	180	108	180	108	180	108	180
Prince William	144	72	144	72	160	72	160	72
Richmond City	160	600	216	600	270	600	270	600
Sussex	27	-	27	-	27	-	18	-
Winchester	108	36	108	36	108	36	108	36
Total Slots	1,184	1,827	1,292	2,017	1,362	2,067	1,353	2,117

*Number of improved slots are estimated and may vary depending on number of VPI+ eligible children in the classrooms.

VDOE Early Childhood Education:

- Dr. Billy Haun, Chief Academic Officer
Billy.Haun@doe.virginia.gov
- Dr. Christine Harris, Director, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood
Christine.Harris@doe.virginia.gov
- Mrs. Cheryl Strobel, Associate Director, VPI State Program
Cheryl.Strobel@doe.virginia.gov
- Dr. Mark Allan, Coordinator, VPI+ Federal Grant Program
Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov