

Date: August 31, 2018
 For ACTION _____
 For INFORMATION _____ X
 Board Agenda: Yes _____
 No _____ X

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
 Michelle Smith-Howard, Ed.S., Coordinator, Citywide Early Childhood Programs

THROUGH: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and
 Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

BACKGROUND

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) serves as the lead for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), the state’s public prekindergarten program for four-year-olds, for the City of Alexandria. In most school divisions across the state of Virginia, the VPI program is administered solely in the public schools. However, due to capacity and funding constraints, Alexandria has a mixed-delivery model whereby VPI students are in the public schools and community-based child care centers. The current VPI providers are *ALIVE! Child Development Center, The Campagna Center, Child and Family Network Centers, and Creative Play School*. Though the community-based children are educated outside of the public schools, ACPS is still responsible for all state reporting, monitoring, and issuance of funds.

ACPS serves 192 VPI students in twelve classrooms at James K. Polk and William Ramsay Elementary Schools, Jefferson-Houston School, and the Early Childhood Center. For the 2017-2018 school year, 385 students were served between ACPS and community-partners and 77% of kindergarten students reported having a preschool experience prior to entering kindergarten.

Registration and Enrollment Process

In order to qualify for VPI, a child must live within city limits, be four-years-old by September 30, and qualify based on income and other risk factors. Student risk factors are identified during the registration process and a point system has been assigned to the state risk factors listed below. Students with the greatest number of risk factors are provided priority. A wait list is maintained and students are placed into classrooms when/if space becomes available. ACPS is also kept abreast of vacancies at community-based VPI programs and staff facilitate contact between families and the other programs.

Student Eligibility Criteria	
• Family income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level	• Foster care
• Family income less than 350 percent of the federal poverty level for a student with special needs or disabilities	• Family instability
• Homelessness	• Incarceration of a parent
• Student’s parent or legal guardian did not complete high school	• English language learner (ELL)
• Family income 250 percent of the federal poverty level	• Family violence
• Teen parenthood	• Unstable employment
• Substance abuse	• Socio-emotional behavior issues

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached materials regarding the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) Program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 180831_ACPS_Housed_ECE_Programs
2. 180831_VPI_Community_Flyer

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or concerns, please contact Michelle Smith-Howard via email (michelle.smith-howard@acps.k12.va.us) or at 703.619.8283.

cc: Senior Leadership Team