



Early Care and Education Progress Report

March 22, 2021

System Alignment - Promote our collective early care and education vision through collaborative strategic planning, data-driven decision making, sustainable funding, and policy.

| Project | Progress |
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| <p>Develop a data system and data sharing agreements with key partners to capture how children are being served by and benefiting from the early care and education system.</p> | <p>SBA has contracted with a data consultant to assist in the development of a data and evaluation system. The work will be completed in three phases, which include: delineation of key indicators, identification of available data and creation of governance policy, and the creation of a data system and dashboard. The engagement began March 1st and is expected to be completed July 31st.</p> |
| <p>Better understand the gaps and opportunities related to existing funding streams and capacity, including how to better combine and optimize funding for a more equitable, sustainable, and family and child- centric system.</p> | <p>Building on the work of the local funding pilot, SBA has organized a Finance Committee that will collaboratively plan how best to utilize local funding and other grant opportunities to support our work and build a comprehensive system. The committee’s first meeting is scheduled for March 24th.</p> |

Access - Foster a coordinated system of equitable access, capacity, enrollment, and funding.

| Project | Progress |
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| <p>Continue to refine enrollment processes to enable families to have a more transparent understanding of their eligibility for various programs.</p> | <p>ACPS is hosting information sessions via zoom to provide interested families with the details of the VPI registration process as well as sharing resources and information on other programs.</p> |
| <p>Develop a coordinated enrollment process with one point of entry.</p> | <p>Enrollment Coordinators from the publicly funded programs meet monthly to share information regarding enrollment and referrals.</p> |



Family Connections - Establish meaningful partnerships and channels of information sharing with families to support families as their child’s first teacher.

| Project | Progress |
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| Ensure stronger transitions between pre-K and grades K-3, with greater information sharing across early learning pathways. | A work plan is being developed to address communication strategies to better inform families of the transition from preK to kindergarten. |
| The Basics Awareness Campaign | SBA launched its first community-wide campaign, The Basics, on February 1 st . The Basics are five, science-based, parenting and caregiving principles that encompass much of what experts find is important for children from birth to age three. They offer caregivers simple, fun and free ways to promote healthy development within the natural course of everyday activities. The project originated at Harvard University and is inspired by the fact that 80% of brain growth happens in the first three years of life. SBA partners have developed implementation plans to share The Basics within their respective organizations. |

Quality - Develop and coordinate professional learning opportunities for all early care and education providers to ensure equitable high-quality, culturally responsive learning experiences for young children.

| Project | Progress |
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| Increase the number of childcare centers, preschools, and family childcare homes that are accredited, maintaining accreditation status annually, and/or participating in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) | Nine new programs have joined Virginia Quality (VQ) so far this year and there are currently five programs in progress to advance to Levels 2 and 3. VQ Technical Assistants continue to work with participating providers on their Quality Improvement Plans, Quality Rating levels, professional learning and trainings. VQ providers received toys, PPE, and other materials during the month of March to support their programs. |