



Early Care and Education Progress Report

September 19, 2022

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

Project	Progress
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.	Family Child Care and Center based programs continue to experience student under-enrollment and staffing shortages. Like programs nationwide, data assessment is needed to develop appropriate responses to these workforce stability threats.

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
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 Create an annual preschool delivery strategy and optimize funding streams supporting it.	<p>Alexandria had 63 programs participate in Virginia Quality in FY22. A total of 18 programs increased their Virginia Quality Rating Level to include: Family Day Home Providers, ACPS, Campagna Center, and Child Care Centers</p> <p>The state has changed the Pre-K PALS (Phonological Literacy Screening) to a new screener, Pre-K Language and Literacy Screener. The screener assesses, Alphabet Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Language: Passage Comprehension, Language: Nonsense Sentences, Name Writing, Print Concepts, and (RAN) Rapid Automatized Naming. Programs will participate in this new screener along with the VKRP (Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program).</p>



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

Project	Progress
<p>Create an annual preschool delivery strategy and optimize funding streams supporting it.</p>	<p>Engaged partners in working toward development of “coordinated enrollment” across publicly funded ECCE family child care homes and child care centers (including those participating in VECF’s Mixed Delivery program), Head Start, Virginia Preschool Initiative, and others to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help parents easily learn where there are available spots for their children, what they qualify for, and information such as cost, hours, and location. • Help ECCE providers keep enrollment numbers high, communicate when they have spots available, and be able to cover the true costs of quality services. <p>An Enrollment Coordinator position and a Family Engagement Specialist position are in development to support this work. Virginia Preschool Initiative added one (1) new community partner for FY23, Helen Day Preschool Academy-Hopkins House. VPI slots are projected to increase by 20 this school year.</p> <p>The local match increased for FY23 to \$4,494.50 from \$3,827.50 in FY22.</p> <p>Community providers also receive a Community Add-On of \$3,500.00 per student for students enrolled by October 1, 2022</p> <p>Funding for FY23 includes \$269,000 from Ready Regions to support CLASS Observations, Professional Development and Staffing at KFY.</p> <p>Contingency Funding is projected to support the increased costs of the VPI Match and to fund coordinated enrollment and family engagement positions. Any remaining funds will support extended day and summer enrollment.</p>



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

Project	Progress
<p>Develop stronger feedback mechanisms for families to engage with providers in a culturally and geographically accessible way.</p>	<p>The KFY Family Connections Committee has adopted the following as their strategies for engaging families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness of KFY's role and promote trust as a resource within the community. • Connect families to resources using both passive (brochures, social media) and active (conversations, warm handoffs) methods. • Offer the time, space and environment for families to network and develop relationships with other families. • Promote understanding of holistic child development through printed resources and interactive family engagement activities. • Ensure stronger transitions between pre-K and grades K-3, with greater information sharing across early learning pathways. • Forge connections among health and education providers, particularly in the prenatal to 3-year- old space, to support comprehensive prenatal care and a comprehensive medical home approach. <p>The activities and initiatives planned to accomplish these strategies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Baby Showers (alternating east and west end) • Connect and Play Sessions – monthly play sessions • The Basics Awareness Campaign • Partner Sponsored Activities (i.e. Trunk or Treat, Family Fun Day)