

Comparison of 2023 Commission Report to Current Accomplishments and Activities

July 22, 2024

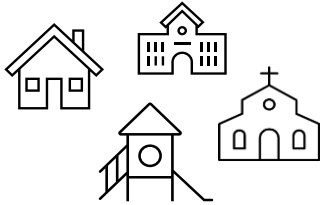


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Revisiting the 2023 Report

REMINDER: OUR SHARED VISION

We envision a Virginia where *all* children have the opportunity to enter school ready.



Families have a variety of affordable, high-quality early learning options.



Programs are measured, supported to improve, and rewarded for continuous improvement.



Parents can work or go to school and meet their family's needs.

REMINDER: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Commission identified key principles for a best-in-class early childhood care and education system.

Guiding Principles

Access and
Choice

Affordability

Quality and
Educator
Workforce

Public-
Private
Partnership

Full
Community
Participation

Accountability

REMINDER: 8 KEY STRATEGIES

**Build on
Strong
Fundamentals**

**Apply
Innovative
Business
Sector
Approach**

**Address
Workforce
Challenges**

**Recognize
Early
Childhood as
Essential
Economic
Development**

**Explore
Public-Private
Funding
Mechanisms**

**Streamline
Regulations**

**Use Family
Demand and
Choice to
Drive Funding**

**Ensure Data-
Driven
Decision
Making**

Accomplishments and Activities

BUILD ON FUNDAMENTALS AND USE DATA

Virginia should continue to build on the fundamentals of its ECCE system and use data to drive decision-making at every level of the system.

Recommendations	Highlights
Leverage the strong fundamentals of Virginia's system	Virginia completed first full year of VQB5 with ~30,000 classroom observations and other key data for 3,400 sites in LinkB5 .
Continue to maximize and target funding	FY25-26 Biennial Budget funds <u>all</u> public slots for preschool, child care mixed delivery based on current parent demand using cost-of-quality methodology. Investments are targeted towards those in greatest need.
Use data to inform parents about quality options	VQB5 Quality Profiles will launch Fall 2024 as a one-stop online portal for information about health, safety and quality for all public options.
Build data analysis capacity at the local and regional level	Ready Regions Data Dashboards and Data Ecosystem Mapping enable monitoring of supply and demand at regional and at state level.

ROLE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE

Recognizing ECCE as economic development, Virginia should support business to play larger role, pilot innovations and strengthen public-private partnerships.

Recommendation	Highlights
Encourage businesses to fund ECCE for employees	Virginia will pilot a cost-sharing model via Mixed Delivery in Ready Regions with innovative employers in FY25.
Create innovative ECCE models that empower businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Care Supply Building Pilot will place a liaison in local/regional chambers of commerce/EDAs in up to two Ready Regions in FY25.• VDOE will pilot a “digital wallet” to make it easier for families, businesses, philanthropy and local government to contribute towards child care.
Convene stakeholder groups and scale business partnerships	<u>Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education (VBREE)</u> was launched in late 2023 with executives, employers, local and regional chambers, and EDAs.
Utilize workforce development focus to leverage business interest	Shovel Ready Virginia Task Force was convened by VBREE in 2024 to bring together business, workforce & economic development, and philanthropic executives to build supply of high-quality ECCE services and workforce.

REGULATIONS AND WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Virginia should streamline regulations, zoning and permitting to make it easier for providers to serve families and address persistent work challenges.

Recommendations	Highlights
Reduce timelines for background checks	<u>HB1277 (2024)</u> allows employers to provisionally hire staff for child care centers. Signed by the Governor and effective July 1, 2024.
Make it easier to open ECCE options	<u>HB281/SB13 (2024)</u> permits localities to waive zoning requirements for child care in office buildings. Signed by Governor and effective July 1, 2024.
Increase regulatory freedom	<u>HB739/SB702 (2024)</u> exempts child care providers serving the children of military personnel or on a base from duplicative licensure. Signed by the Governor and effective July 1, 2024.
Create professional development ladders	<u>FastTrack</u> recruits new talent into workforce, building the <u>child care</u> supply by offering compensation and competitive wages, introductory and accelerated preservice training, and retention and ongoing professional development.

FAMILY DEMAND AND CHOICE

Regardless of source, Virginia should ensure ECCE funding is stable, sustainable, based on family demand and preference, and tracked to understand impact.

Recommendations	Highlights
Codify family demand-driven growth and choice into law	<u>SB54/HB419</u> requires annual reporting on ECCE funding needed to sustain enrollment, meet family demand by eliminating wait lists, and increase access. Law also enables funding to be reallocated based on family preferences. Signed by Governor and effective July 1, 2024.
Provide clear and actionable information for family choice	<u>SB54/HB419</u> and the FY25-26 Biennial Budget provide funding based on current public-private demand and require wait lists as of July 1 for state to track unmet need.
Ensure that home-based care is considered a quality ECCE experience	To strengthen family child care, private funds supported strategic planning for the future of Virginia Alliance of Family Child Care Associations, enabling home-based care to thrive and remain accessible for families.



THANK YOU!