

## ECCE COMMISSION KEY PRINCIPLES

*From the October 2023 annual report of the Virginia Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education: As Virginia looks to innovate and sustain a model of quality public-private birth to five learning options that align with parent choice and produce positive early learning outcomes, the Commission identified the key principles for a best-in-class ECCE system:*

- **ACCESS/CHOICE:** Parents must have quality options, data, and information to choose quality care, and the ability to pay for their child’s care; and Virginia will continue to fund children, not systems.
  
- **AFFORDABILITY:** Families should contribute to child care costs based on sliding scale according to household income so that they can choose high quality, early learning child care experiences that best meet their child’s needs.
  
- **QUALITY/EDUCATOR WORKFORCE:** ECCE programs have the resources to deliver engaging learning experiences that ensure school readiness and support multifaceted work force that have the opportunity to grow and deepen their ability to impact and deliver quality early learning experiences.
  
- **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP:** Employers must be an active part of this solution—including but not limited to helping to cover the cost of child care to their employees. Government and business partners help develop and implement innovative solutions that are nimble, cost effective and demonstrate impact.
  
- **FULL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** Local governments and communities have a vested interest in the success of our children and must contribute to solutions that fit their community needs.
  
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Quality and transparent data must be used to effectively facilitate parent decisions and to ensure that all child care focuses on early learning.