

**ECCE Commission:
Reminder of Purpose and Charge**

§ 2.2-208.1. Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education. (*selected sections, bold font added for emphasis*)

A. In recognition of the fact that early care and education of young children is linked to academic success and workforce readiness, the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education (the Commission) is hereby established **for the purpose of providing recommendations for and tracking progress on the financing of a comprehensive birth-to-five early childhood care and education system as established in § [22.1-289.03](#) that provides stable, high-quality early childhood care and education services for families who need them the most, empowers parents with choices that meet their needs and preferences, and supports both school readiness and workforce participation.**

C. The Commission shall have **the following powers and duties:**

- 1. Expand access to and the quality of child care in all regions of the Commonwealth;**
- 2. Analyze all existing and potential new opportunities for financing early childhood care and education programs with a focus on outcomes that are verifiable by data;**
- 3. Retain, grow, and strengthen the quality of the Commonwealth's early childhood care and education workforce;**
- 4. Gather and study information and data to accomplish its purposes as set forth in this section;**
- 5. Gather and analyze data on the current and the projected five-year availability, quality, cost, and affordability of early childhood care and education throughout the Commonwealth for children from birth to age five, determine needs and priorities for early childhood care and education, and develop funding recommendations focused on family choice, access, affordability, and quality, giving due consideration to potential unforeseen impacts of funding and policy changes on the early childhood care and education sector;**
- 6. Annually report on specific expenditures, outcomes, and impact, including the number of children served, demographics, child-level assessment data via the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), classroom-level assessment data**

via the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5), teacher turnover and retention data, and parental employment data;

7. Support the development of an integrated early childhood longitudinal data process to capture and link access, quality, and educator data with preschool growth and school readiness outcome data through third grade and facilitate the sharing and use of such data and the seamless integration of the early childhood longitudinal data process with other student longitudinal data systems and processes; and

8. Monitor and support ongoing research and evaluation conducted by the Department of Education, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and any other higher education or research institutions as deemed relevant, to continuously improve the quality of early childhood care and education services in the Commonwealth.

D. One of the most important factors in learning outcomes for young children is exposure to high-quality teacher-student interactions made possible through the hiring, training, and retention of skilled educators who support their growth and learning. In recognizing the importance of strong professional supports and competitive compensation to retaining skilled educators, **the Commission shall prioritize financing early childhood care and education services using the Department of Education's cost of quality estimation model.** Adoption of this model will ensure that early childhood care and education programs are resourced to attract and retain talented educators and consistently deliver high-quality services, yielding strong school readiness and literacy outcomes for participating young children. As part of this effort, the Commission **should consider best practices and innovations in the private and public sector from across the Commonwealth and the country.** The Commission *should consider different sources of revenue and establish long-term goals and targets for affordable access to quality care and education for all birth-to-five children in the Commonwealth.* Based on disparities in school readiness outcomes, the Commission *should ensure that all recommendations address the needs of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable children, families, and early childhood educators.* The Commission shall review the goals set forth in this subsection and other priorities within the early childhood care and education system and **submit no later than October 1 of each year recommendations** to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, the House Committee on Labor and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health. The Commission shall also post such recommendations on its website in a manner and format that ensure ease of access by interested parents and other members of the public.