

# Snapshot: Early Childhood State of the State

Summer 2025



*These slides provide a snapshot of successes and key achievements for Virginia's unified early childhood care and education system between 2018-2025.*

*The full presentation can be accessed at  
<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/early-childhood-care-education>.*

# Virginia Has Made Significant Gains Since 2018

**With bipartisan support, Virginia has unified its public-private birth-to-five early childhood care and education system to:**

- increase parent choice and access,
- improve quality,
- measure outcomes and
- build lasting regional infrastructure

while continually promoting innovation and excellence.

*As a result, more Virginia children are entering kindergarten with quality early childhood experiences that helped prepare them to be successful in school and beyond.*

# 2018 vs. 2025 – Snapshot of Success

| In 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | In 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>36,680 children were served with public funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17,924 in Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)</li> <li>18,801 in Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP)</li> <li>250 in Mixed Delivery</li> </ul> | <p>70,713 children were served with public funds (89% increase)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23,526 in Virginia Preschool Initiative (31% increase)</li> <li>43,550 in Child Care Subsidy Program (132% increase)</li> <li>2,738 in Mixed Delivery (995% increase)</li> </ul> <p><i>Most of this increase is driving by demand for public-private settings from working families.</i></p> |
| \$97,997,348 in state general funds were invested to serve children                                                                                                                                                                      | \$390,175,115 in state general funds were invested to serve children (~300% increase)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2,572 private providers participated in CCSP                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3,107 private providers participated in CCSP (21% increase)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1,462 child care providers participate in VQ                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3,401 child care providers participate in VQB5 (133% increase)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>165 CLASS observations completed via VQ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13,200 minutes of insight</li> </ul>                                                                                                               | <p>31,258 CLASS observations completed via VQB5 (18,844% increase)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2 million minutes of insight</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 31,091 children in VKRP                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>132,112 children in VKRP (325% increase)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VKRP for K: 86,661</li> <li>Preschool VKRP: 43,451</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| No data system connecting VQ, VALLS and VKRP                                                                                                                                                                                             | VAConnects will link data systems for 32,500+ birth-8 <sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, 80,000+ users and 558,000+ children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

# All Funds Were Used for Slots in FY25

**Virginia was able to maximize *Building Blocks*, a historic \$1.2 billion state and federal investment in FY25 to serve more children with public funds than ever before. No early childhood funds were left unused unlike prior years.**

- Mixed Delivery served 2,738 children in FY25, a 6% increase from the previous year.
- Enrollment in the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) reached a historic high, with 43,550 children in May 2025 compared to ~40,700 in May 2024 (7% increase). One-third of children enrolled in CCSP are school-age children.
- Two-thirds of families prefer private settings, especially working parents who need full-day, full-year options.
- VPI served 23,526 children in FY25, a 5% increase from the previous year. Unused VPI funds were used to add CCSP slots in response to new state law.
- All partners worked with Head Start to maximize all federal resources, helping to offer access to comprehensive two-generation services for our most vulnerable families.

# Public-Private Parent Choice System

Virginia's early childhood system consists of multiple public and private providers that offer birth-to-five care and education across multiple settings.



Over **2,000**  
family child  
care homes



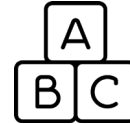
Over **3,000**  
licensed child  
care centers



**954** public  
schools



Over **880**  
religiously-  
exempt child  
care centers



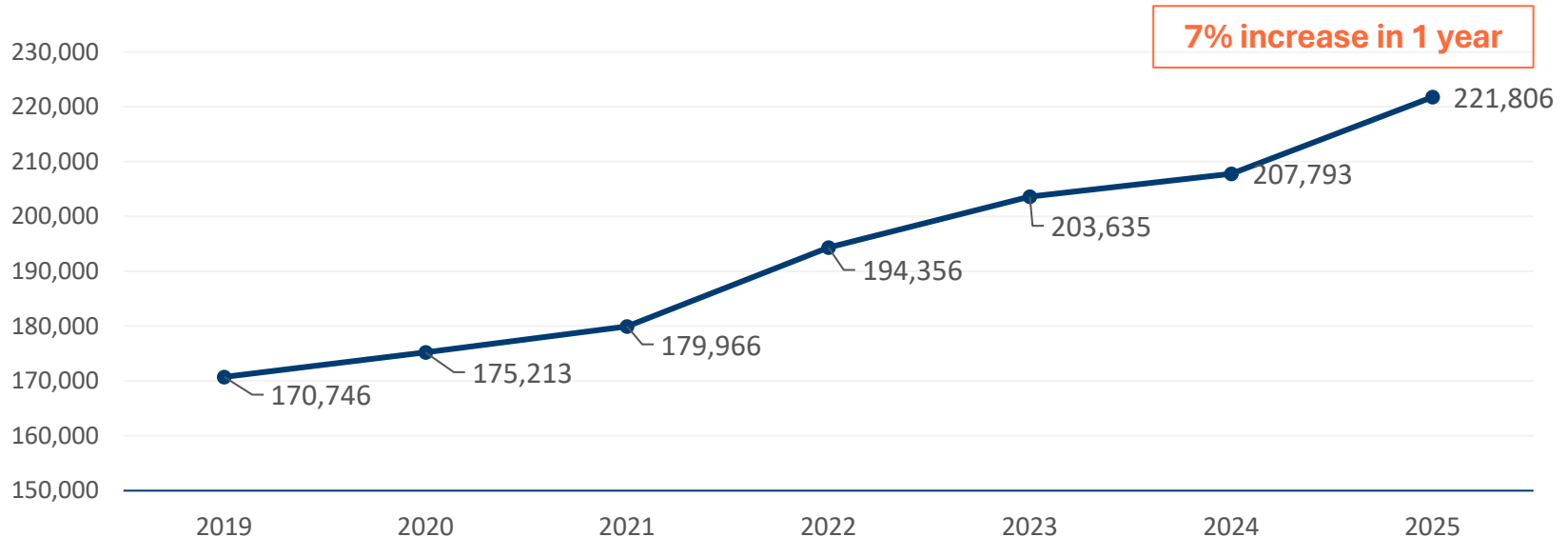
**46** Head Start  
and Early Head  
Start grantees  
(across 360+ sites)

*Note: Site totals are not mutually exclusive and should not be summed. Additional site types include certified preschools, local government approved centers, and short-term child day centers (generally summer camps).*

# More Private Providers Take Public Funds

More private providers are choosing to take public funds with maximum capacity increasing by 30% since 2019.

Capacity to Serve Publicly-Funded Children in Private Settings in Virginia, 2019-2025



# Going Forward: A New High in Access

**Biennial State Budget made historic investments for ECCE via *Building Blocks* — ~\$1.2 billion in state funding over the biennium, two-thirds of which is state funding.**

- FY26 budget dedicates \$593 million towards ECCE, including the largest ever single year state investment in early childhood of \$462 million.
- Copayment levels (5%) largely determine how many new slots can be provided.
- FY26 funding will support up to ~5,200 additional slots beyond FY25 enrollment.
- New state law ensures that dollars more closely follow parent choice.

**More children will have access to publicly-funded slots in FY26 than ever before.**

| Program                       | Slots Available for FY26 | Change from FY25 Slots Used | Change from 2018 | Percent Increase from 2018 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Total                         | 74, 793                  | +5,187                      | +37,818          | 102%                       |
| Child Care Subsidy Program    | 47,676                   | + 4,126                     | +28,875          | 153%                       |
| Virginia Preschool Initiative | 24,487                   | + 961                       | +6,563           | 37%                        |
| Mixed Delivery Program        | 2,630                    | + 100*                      | +2,380           | 952%                       |



# Continuing to Address Waitlists

**For every 5 slots in CCSP and Mixed Delivery, 1 child is on a waitlist.**

- Historic state investments in FY25-26 biennial budget ensured that no children would lose services following the end of pandemic funding.
- However, there has been ongoing growth in parental demand from working families, including households of school-age children. As a result, waitlists in CCSP and Mixed Delivery grew steadily during FY25.
  - Currently, ~13,500 children are on CCSP waitlists – 60% of which are birth-5.
  - Currently, ~2,000 children are on Mixed Delivery waitlists.

|                     | Children on CCSP Waitlist (7/1/25) |                  | Children on MD Waitlist (6/18/25) |                  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
|                     | Number                             | As % of Waitlist | Number                            | As % of Waitlist |
| Infants/Toddlers    | 4,568                              | 34%              | 1,381                             | 71%              |
| Preschool (3-5 yrs) | 3,533                              | 26%              | 572                               | 29%              |
| School-Age (6+)     | 5,385                              | 40%              | -                                 |                  |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>13,486</b>                      |                  | <b>1,953</b>                      |                  |

# Child Care Waitlists Continue to Grow

Rate of growth of waitlists has slowed as working families face difficult choices.

FY25 CCSP Waitlist Counts, by Month

