



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RICHMOND

Joint Subcommittee on the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

November 1, 2017

The Honorable S. Chris Jones
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Virginia General Assembly
P. O. Box 5059
Suffolk, Virginia 23435-0059

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Virginia General Assembly
P.O. Box 6205
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Virginia General Assembly
P.O. Box 2
Mt. Solon, Virginia 22843-0002

Dear Chairmen,

As you know, the 2015 General Assembly adopted, in Item 1 (Q.1-3) and reflected in Chapter 665, budget language that established the Joint Subcommittee for Preschool.

The goals and objectives of the Joint Subcommittee were to consider increasing accountability, flexibility, innovation, clarification of the state's role and policy relating to providing a preschool for economically disadvantaged children, and to further develop the facilitation of partnerships between school divisions and private providers for the Virginia Preschool Initiative. Furthermore, the Subcommittee was directed to review and consider possible recommendations regarding the development of a competency-based professional development framework for early childhood teachers in public schools and early learning practitioners in private early learning settings.

As you may know, the Subcommittee held four meetings in 2015 and had a variety of presentations and testimony from researchers and various stakeholders regarding preschool related topics and issues. The Subcommittee subsequently met in September 2016 and in September 2017. The agendas as well as related presentations and materials from the meetings are available on our respective Committee's webpages for your reference.

The Honorable S. Chris Jones
The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., and
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
November 1, 2017
Page Two

For the September 2016 meeting, the subcommittee's staff provided members with a review of the prior year's presentations and work along with an overview of the budgetary changes that were adopted during the 2016 General Assembly Session. In addition, Dr. Siddiqui, from the Office of the Attorney General shared an advisory opinion regarding early childhood teacher licensure requirements and the use of the Lottery Fund for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI); Mrs. Glazer discussed updates on the Mixed Delivery Partnership and community college tuition grants and the School Readiness Committee; Dr. Williford, research professor at UVA, talked about the findings from the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (VKRA) initiative; and staff from the Department of Education presented an overview of the existing VPI funding formula and the new federal award for the VPI + grant.

For the 2017 meeting, the subcommittee received testimony from: Dr. Williford who gave another update on the progress of the next phase of the VKRA; Deputy Secretary Coy on the School Readiness Committee's activities and its reported recommendations; Mrs. Glazer provided updates on the Mixed Delivery Pilot grantees and Project Pathfinders; and lastly, Dr. Cooper shared a brief video and update related to the Early Childhood STEM Through the Arts Model.

In concluding the business meeting, the subcommittee discussed a potential need to continue its efforts in reporting preschool issues and related funding.

In addition, some members of the Subcommittee were able to attend a site visit on August 29, 2017. Senators Hanger and Ruff and Betsey Daley, Sarah Herzog, and Susan Hogge visited a preschool classroom at the Partnership for Richmond Families Northside Richmond and discussed the Classroom Assessment Scoring System.

The adopted language governing the subcommittee directed it to prepare a report of any findings and potential recommendations it had to share with you, as the Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee, by November 1, 2017. The Joint Subcommittee may elect to meet again at some point after November 1, but prior to the start of the 2018 Session. In the meantime, please accept this update as our report for 2017.

With Best Regards,



R. Steven Landes, Co-Chairman
Joint Subcommittee for Preschool



Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Co-Chairman
Joint Subcommittee for Preschool

Cc: Joint Subcommittee for Virginia Preschool Initiative Members

Robert P. Vaughn, Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee

Susan L. Hogge, Legislative Analyst Staff, House Appropriations Committee

Sarah E. Herzog, Legislative Analyst Staff, Senate Finance Committee