



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Education & Human Services Standing Committee

February 12, 2026

Prep Document for Committee Members

Previous Meeting: January 8, 2026

Next Meeting: March 12, 2026

Legistar Link: [City of Richmond - Meeting of Education and Human Services Standing Committee on 2/12/2026 at 2:00 PM](#)

Presentation:

- Early Childhood Development in Richmond ~ Eva Colen and Jacqueline Hale of the Office of Children and Families

Discussion Items

- RPS Updates: Jason Kamras, Superintendent
- DCAO HS Report: Amy Popovich, DCAO for Human Services
 - [Res. 2025-R023](#) update on RPS funding formula working group

Papers for Consideration

- Ord. 2025-276 (Avula, Authorize Boys & Girls Club program at MLK, Jr. MS)
- Ord. 2026-037 (Avula, accept \$41,240 for harm reduction vending machines)
- Ord. 2026-038 (Avula, accept \$100,000 for OAA mini grants to combat opioids)

Next Meeting Preview (Thu, 3/12)

Presentations:

- RPS on Master Facilities Plan
- RHHD on overview of services

Early Childhood Education in Richmond

Notes:

- Demographics: ~ 13,000 age 0-5 in Richmond (54% Black, 30% White, 14% Hispanic)
 - 50% living in homes making less than 200% federal poverty level
- Slide 8: review of local programs by age range
- Slide 9: review of state programs by age range
- Slide 14-18: trend data on population
 - 53.5% births covered by Medicaid (steady since 2015)
 - 6.4% late or no prenatal care births (up slightly since 2015)
- Slide 19: 2,211 kids enrolled in ECE across several programs (age 0-5)
- Slide 20: 64% of incoming RPS kindergarteners are not meeting benchmarks
- Slide 23: Early Childhood Care & Education Trust Fund (ECCE Trust Fund)

Potential Questions:

- How does the City educate/connect the public to early childhood education resources?
- On slide 19, how does this enrollment compare from recent years? Are we up or down?
 - What do we know about private early childhood enrollment numbers?
 - What do we know about the ~ 11,000 kids age 0-5 living in Richmond who are not enrolled in public early childhood education programs?
- On slide 20, what do you recommend to increase the % of incoming kindergarteners meeting basic benchmarks?
 - How have our benchmark % changed in recent years? Have gaps increased?
- On the ECCE Trust Fund, how much money was in the FY26 budget for this?
 - How many slots are supported with these funds?
 - Is the list on slide 26 for all the providers? Are we seeking more?
 - Are we reaching the target populations we want with these funds?
- Is there a plan to formalize the Children's Cabinet with the Clerk's office?
 - Which MAP goals are you working towards with this group?

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

1. Ordinance 2025-276

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Outside Agency Contract between the City of Richmond and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond for the purpose of funding the expansion of life skills programming at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

This paper was continued at the January EHS committee meeting.

Notes:

- Expand life skills programming at MLK Middle School, see attached scope of services (page 12 of 14-page PDF) for details.
- Support conflict resolution, self-regulation and academic planning.
- Engage at least 100 youth during the school year and host at least 3 field trips

Recommended Questions

- This is one-time funding, correct? What is the long-term plan for these services?
- Please outline the grant monitoring process for these funds.
- What else are we doing to support this sort of work at MLK, Jr. Middle School and other RPS middle school campuses?
- Please elaborate on to implement “EliteGaming LIVE Academy” as part of this grant.

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

Likely to be heard together as a block

2. Ordinance 2026-037

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$41,240.00 from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services' OAA Harm Reduction Vending Machines Special Fund by \$41,240.00 for the purpose of providing funding for harm reduction vending machines to combat the opioid crisis

3. Ordinance 2026-038

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, and to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services entitled "OAA Mini Grants Special Fund" and appropriating the increase to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services' "OAA Mini Grants Special Fund" by \$100,000.00 for the purpose of providing grants to community partners to combat the opioid crisis.

Notes:

- Both papers accept funds from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA)
- Virginia's Opioid Abatement Authority is an independent body, the purpose of which is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial O&R Request Page 2 of 3 support from the Fund, in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth.

Recommended Questions

- Do all funds for both papers need to be expended within FY26, or can funds merely be encumbered for use into FY27?
- Ord. 2026-037: How many vending machines/ products will this ordinance pay for?
- Ord. 2026-038: What can you tell us about the likely grantees?
- Describe the reporting requirement associated with accepting these funds.
- Does accepting these funds from OAA require any additional local spending?