



Early Childhood Policy Update

November 12, 2015

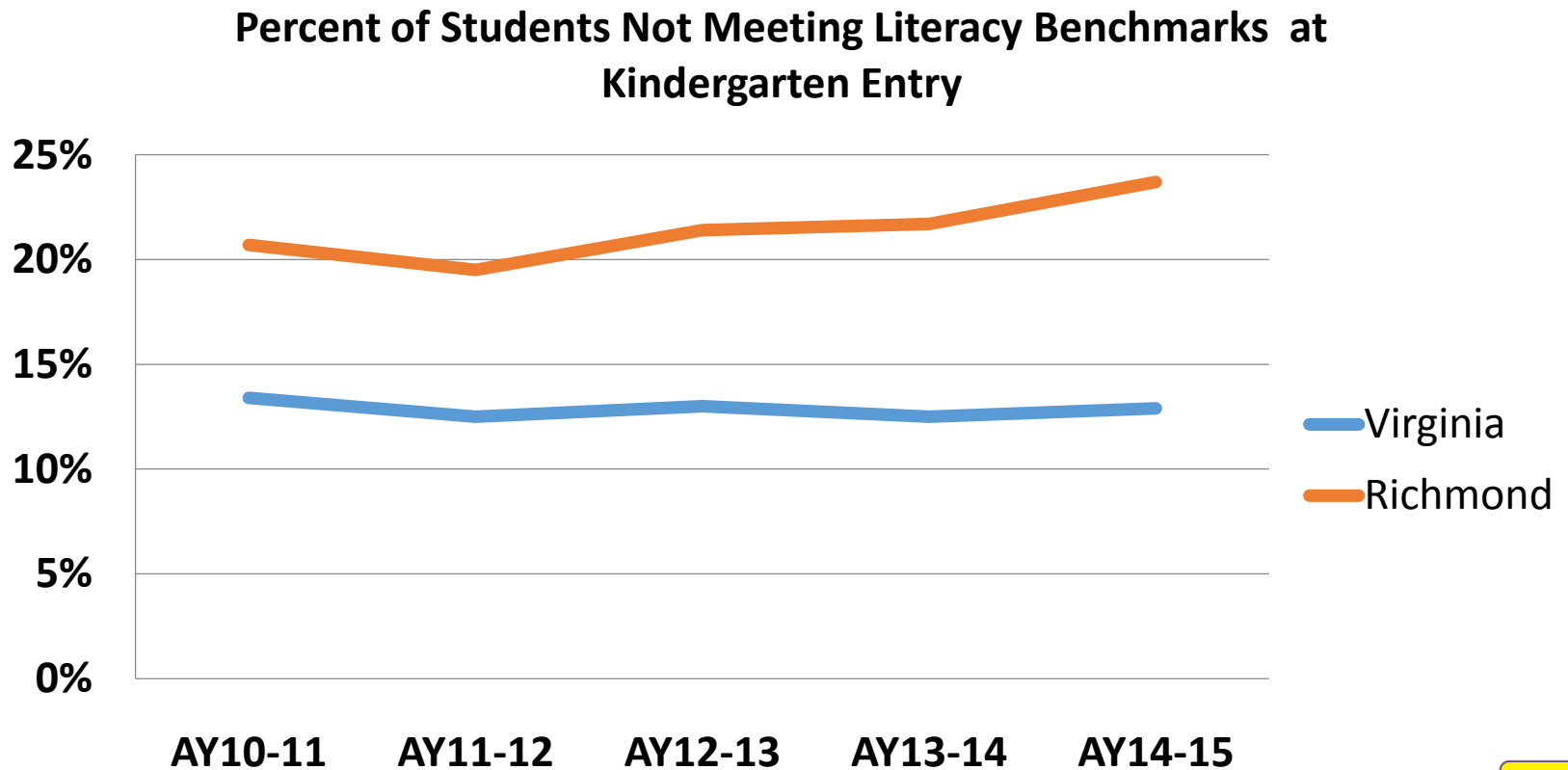
Richmond City Council

Voices for Virginia's Children

- **We champion public policies that improve the lives of VA's children**, especially in areas of:
 - Child welfare and foster care
 - Mental health and health
 - Early care and education
 - Family economic success
- Privately funded, nonprofit, non-partisan
- Data and research on children's well-being:
KIDS COUNT
- Advocacy on behalf of all children, but particularly the most vulnerable

KIDS COUNT Data

Q. Are children ready for school?
How well are we doing at preparing children for school?



Early Childhood Landscape in VA

- **Increasing childhood poverty; greater impact on younger children**
 - More than a third of kids under 6 are below 200% poverty
 - Toxic stress of poverty
- **Renewed interest in VA to shape future of ECE**
 - Governor's Children's Cabinet/Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success
 - Jt. Subcommittee on VPI Reform

Early Childhood Partners in Richmond



And many more.....



Maggie Walker Initiative



Early Childhood Policy Network and Unified Agenda

THE PATH TO VIRGINIA'S PROSPERITY



2016 Early Childhood Policy Agenda

- **Expand home visiting program for pregnant women and families with infants.**
 - Building back from years of cuts
 - Expand in targeted communities through the Home Visiting Consortium. **Request=** \$4.5 M in FY 17; \$11.3 in FY18
- **Adequately fund early interventions to promote the healthy development of babies and toddlers.**
 - Increasing number of children identified with 25% developmental delay
 - **Request=** Support additional funding for Early Intervention (Part C) services

2016 Early Childhood Policy Agenda

- **Continue efforts to improve the safety of child care.**

- **Legislation:** All child care providers should have a fingerprint background check .
- **Legislation:** Localities should be able to penalize anyone in the business of providing child care that does not follow the rules .

- **Promote continuous quality improvement in all early care settings.**

(New pilot proposals)

- Expand access to ratings and classroom mentoring and coaching for educators.
- Create better linkages between Virginia Quality (QRIS) and Head Start and VPI.
- Improve career pathways with enhanced supports at the community college and 4-year college levels.

2016 Early Childhood Policy Agenda

- **Adopt research-based income criteria for eligibility in the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) while allowing for flexibility to address local needs.**
 - **Budget language:** Revise the VPI eligibility criteria adopted last year to allow for research-based criteria with local flexibility. The best examples of state-level criteria with local flexibility are from North Carolina and Tennessee. These states establish standard criteria, including income level, while facilitating local flexibility and encouraging mixed-income settings by prioritizing enrollment based on risk factors or setting aside a percentage of slots for children above the income criteria.

2016 Early Childhood Policy Agenda

- **Increase the per pupil rate for VPI to reflect true costs of quality.**
 - **Budget:** The VPI per pupil rate has not increased since 2008 and is not subject to rebenchmarking.
 - Localities often put in more local funds to adequately support the costs of the Virginia Preschool Initiative than the are required.
- **Restore technical assistance and monitoring capacity at VDOE.**
 - **Budget:** Staff positions to monitor implementation and provide technical assistance were eliminated



Virginia must close the opportunity gap that begins in early childhood.

Our future workforce depends on the preparation and skills being developed now in early care and education.

Questions?

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Find out more and get involved at:
www.vakids.org
www.1in5kids.org

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