Chesterfield County Public Schools: Application for Preschool Expansion Partnership

**Chesterfield County Public Schools Objectives**

Chesterfield County Public Schools is one of eleven school divisions in Virginia participating in the preschool expansion grant. Chesterfield is eligible to receive funds for the next three years to serve additional at-risk four-year-olds in new, high-quality preschool classes beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Chesterfield, like each school division participating in the grant, has the autonomy to develop individualized expansion plans that build on the community’s existing strengths and addresses the unique needs and demographics of its students and families.

Chesterfield County Public Schools will use the preschool expansion grant to create an open door for interaction among and between Chesterfield County Public Schools preschool programs and private child care and preschool entities. The interaction with private child care and preschool entities will include opportunities to contract with Chesterfield County Public Schools as a private vendor to provide VPI+ in a community-based setting.

Chesterfield’s plans include the following expansion over the course of the grant.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School-Based Classrooms</td>
<td>9 classes @ 16 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community-Based Classrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 class @ 16 students</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total New At-Risk 4 Year-Olds Served</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VPI+ includes professional development, curriculum, assessment and evaluation components that are more comprehensive than existing VPI and will meet or exceed every element of the definition of a High Quality Preschool Program. The high-quality elements embedded into VPI+ are required in both public-school and community-based classrooms, and include:

- Licensed teachers with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or in any field with a state-approved pathway and teaching assistants with appropriate credentials;
- Instructional staff salaries comparable to salaries of K-12 staff members;
- Increased high-quality professional development hours;
- Child-to-instructional staff ratio of no more than 9 to 1;
- Class size of no more than 18 (the first year);
- 180 days of full day instruction (5.5 hours/day);
- Inclusion of children with disabilities to ensure access to and full participation in all opportunities;
- Implementation of VDOE-designated developmentally-appropriate curriculum and assessments;
- Individualized accommodations and supports so all children can access/participate fully in learning tasks;
- Comprehensive program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement and student performance;
- Adherence to evidence-based health and safety standards; and
Access to comprehensive services such as:
- Vision and Hearing Screenings
- Mental Health
- Family Support
- Nutrition
- Child welfare
- Adult education and training

Child care programs interested in applying for Chesterfield’s preschool expansion partnership must meet or be prepared to implement the following elements of high-quality preschool with support and funding from Chesterfield County Public Schools to be defined in a separate Memorandum of Agreement.

Preference will be given to child care programs that:
- Demonstrate quality via current rating or participation in Virginia Start Quality Initiative or eligible, recognized national accreditation (i.e., NAEYC, Head Start, VPI)
- Serve at-risk families and underserved communities, as defined in the preschool expansion grant:
  - High-poverty neighborhoods
  - Spanish-language communities
  - Located in attendance zone of a priority elementary school
- Exhibit strong operational infrastructure to implement comprehensive program enhancements and data collection efforts, meet reporting requirements, and manage related personnel and administration activities required by the grant.
- Have previous experience or relationship in contracting with Chesterfield County Public Schools or another public entity.

Please direct questions about program characteristics to:

Kelly Tobe
VPI+ Grant Coordinator
Chesterfield County Public Schools
Perrymont Center
8610 Perrymont Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23237
(804) 279-7409 (phone)
(804) 279-7332 (fax)
(804) 661-5566 (cell)
kelly_tobe@ccpsnet.net

Submission Procedure
Please submit your completed application to: Kelly Tobe, VPI+ Coordinator, via email: kelly_tobe@ccpsnet.net or hand deliver to 8610 Perrymont Road, N. Chesterfield, VA 23237 or before March 9 at 12:00 noon.

If your program meets the criteria outlined in this application, a site visit is required. Final approval of program partnerships will not take place until after site visits are completed. Announcements will be made April 5, 2016.
Agreements will be signed by April 20, 2016. Staff will be hired by and administered through Chesterfield County Public Schools. Staff will attend new teacher orientation and all CCPS professional development. Staff will adhere to the Chesterfield County Public Schools teacher schedule.

If there are no sites that meet the criteria, Chesterfield County Public Schools will create a classroom in a currently served Chesterfield County Public Schools elementary school. A final decision about the location will be made by April 20, 2016.

Preschool Expansion Grant Summary
Virginia has developed a bold and innovative plan for transforming its existing State Preschool Program into a national exemplar through adoption of highly effective best practices to improve quality, access, and impact in High Need Communities.

Building from the successful Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) that has supported the school readiness of at-risk four-year-olds since 1996, Virginia will create a more comprehensive and effective State Preschool Program called VPI Plus (VPI+). VPI+ will meet or exceed every element of the definition of a High Quality Preschool Program and will be implemented through a mixed delivery system. By the end of the grant term, 3,179 four-year-olds at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line will be served annually through VPI+ in eleven local school divisions.

These sub grantees represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the Commonwealth, allowing us to field test and refine VPI+ innovations throughout Virginia to ensure uniform high quality, appropriate flexibility tailored to local circumstances, and broad replicability.

Project Objectives and Activities
Increase access to High Quality Preschool.
- VPI+ will establish 88 new classrooms in Year 1, increasing to nearly 100 classrooms by Year 4 (serving more than 1,200 students in Year 1, increasing to 1,669 students by Year 4) using a model that enhances quality in three ways: installs rigorous, research-tested professional development and curriculum to ensure teacher effectiveness and classroom quality; fosters broad community partnerships to ensure more systematic provision of Comprehensive Services to support low-income four-year-olds and their families; and creates effective pathways to fully engage parents and families, especially those who are hard-to-reach and culturally and linguistically diverse.

Increase the number of High-Quality Preschool Programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Virginia Department of Education</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Federal Award Amount</td>
<td>$17,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan Period</td>
<td>January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Development Grants</td>
<td>will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Grants</td>
<td>are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expansion Grants</td>
<td>are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- Virginia will improve the quality of 96 existing classrooms serving 1,470 students annually in diverse settings. With grant support, sub grantees will extend VPI+ best practices to existing classrooms within their divisions and use community partnerships to expand high quality practices to non-school programs.

Strengthen the statewide infrastructure supporting the State Preschool Program.
- Virginia will improve its Longitudinal Data System; expand its continuous quality improvement system; systematize the use of formative and summative assessment tools; ensure rigorous evaluation; and build a higher caliber pre-service and in-service training and credentialing system to ensure a cadre of highly competent early educators for Virginia’s Preschool children.

Pursue policy changes to promote statewide improvements to standards, practice and access.
- The Preschool Expansion Grant will enable Virginia to test, refine, and expand High Quality Preschool programs statewide, with a priority on improving state policy to expand access, particularly in High Need Communities.

Proposed Project Outcomes
Some of the measurable outcomes to be achieved include:
- Measurable improvements in children’s outcomes, including school readiness.
- A 17 percent increase in the number of slots available in High Quality Preschool Programs.
- A 15 percent reduction in the number of unserved at-risk four-year-olds in VPI+ divisions.
- Demonstrable progress toward a more robust mixed delivery system through measurable increases in the percentage of High Quality classrooms located in nonpublic school settings.
- Improved policies expanding access, quality and support for State Preschool Programs.

Collaborating Organizations
The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is the lead agency for VPI+. VDOE and the eleven sub grantees will work in close partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) and its statewide Smart Beginnings network of local public-private school readiness partnerships. These local networks will be instrumental in fostering enhanced Comprehensive Services in all settings, effective strategies to more fully engage families, and through the TQRIS, a sound framework for continuous program quality improvement for VPI+.

Virginia’s ambitious and achievable plan counts on partnership with the University of Virginia’s Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) – arguably the nation’s most prestigious applied research center focused on early education teacher effectiveness and classroom quality. CASTL will guide all professional development and classroom improvement methods with the sub grantees, including the provision of research-based coaching techniques that have successfully improved teacher effectiveness and student outcomes. Drawing on Virginia’s unique assets, from CASTL’s highly focused research, to our cutting edge, rigorous TQRIS, to our nationally recognized public-private network of local Smart Beginnings, VPI+ will harness these partnerships to build a “first in class” Preschool Program. VPI+ will be accessible to and supportive of families, staffed by a highly-skilled cadre of teachers who are part of a vibrant statewide learning community, and sustainable in Virginia’s diverse High-Needs Communities, creating a strong pathway for Virginia’s preschool success.
Application for Partnership
Please respond to questions in each section, providing information about your child care program.

SECTION I – Program Name and Licensure
In order to apply, child care and preschool programs must be in good standing with all requirements of their regulating authority. “In good standing” indicates that while there may be noncompliance with one or more standards that represent a minor or minimal risk or violation, compliance clearly and obviously exists with the requirements as a whole.

Program Name
____________________________________________________________________________

Program Type: Licensed Child Care Center, Religious Exempt

The program is: Not For Profit    For Profit
License # __________________________________

If exempt from licensure, file number if regulated by VDSS _____________________

Tax ID # ______________________

SECTION II – Program Contact Information
Primary Program Contact
____________________________________________________________________________

Title _______________________________________________________________________

Physical Address __________________________________________________________

City ______________________ State _____ Zip ___________ City/County ____________

Mailing Address ___________________________________________________________

City ______________________ State _____ Zip __________

Area Code _____ Phone ____________________ Area Code _____ Fax ______________

Email _______________________________________________________________________

Please provide the following information if it is different from above.
Owner/Operator or Sponsoring Organization
_________________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________

City ______________________ State _____ Zip __________

Area Code _____ Phone ____________________
SECTION III – Operations, Capacity and Enrollment

Days of Operation:
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Hours of Operation from _______ to _______

Is this facility open at least 180 days a year?  YES  NO

Total number of children enrolled ________ What is the capacity of this facility? ________

Does this facility maintain a waiting list? YES  NO

Are there currently children on the waiting list? YES  NO

Do you have classroom space that can be dedicated solely to VPI+ partnership? YES  NO

If yes, what is the licensed capacity of that classroom?____________

Ages Served in Weeks from ______ to ______

Please complete all applicable categories:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Infants 0-12 months</th>
<th>Young Toddler 13-24 months</th>
<th>Toddlers 25-36 months</th>
<th>3-year olds</th>
<th>4-year olds</th>
<th>5-year olds</th>
<th>School Age</th>
<th>Total Enrolled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can you serve?</td>
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<td># Enrolled</td>
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<td>Total # of classes with this age range</td>
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<td>Maximum # of Children in classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff to Child Ratio</td>
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Number of children enrolled at this facility that speak English as a second language: __________

Number of children enrolled at this facility that receive:
  Child care subsidies from Department of Social Services ______ Head Start ______
  Special education (identified disabilities or special needs) or early intervention (Parts B and C of IDEA) ______
  Other kinds of subsidies or scholarships (private) ______ Military Subsidies ______

Does this facility participate in the USDA Nutrition program?  YES  NO
If yes, how many children enrolled at this facility are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under USDA nutrition programs? ________________

SECTION IV – Financial Operations
Please provide the following:
- Current fiscal year program budget
- Previous fiscal year program actual revenue and expenses
- Proposed fiscal year program budget
- Your most recent IRS documentation

What are the qualifications of the agency CFO? ____________________________________________

When was your last financial audit and the results? _________________________________________

What has your staff turnover been in the last year for your management/administration positions? ____

_____________________________________________________________________________________

SECTION V - Evidence of Quality Early Childhood Standards
Has this program previously participated in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative? YES NO
Is this program currently accredited? YES NO

If yes, by which accrediting organization? _________________________________________________

Curriculum & Assessment
Does this program use any recognized child assessment tools, (e.g. PALS, Brigance, etc.)? YES NO
If yes, please list the assessment tools used.

Does your program have an intentional approach to promoting children’s learning and development? YES NO

Does your program align with specific standards, such as the Virginia Early Learning Guidelines (Milestones of Child Development or Foundation Blocks for Early Learning)? YES NO

If yes, please list the specific standards.

Does your program provide individualized instruction using assessment data or use another method of supporting individual children in the program? YES NO

Education & Qualifications Standards
Do you employ at least one (1) Administrator/Director with an associate degree in a relevant field with a minimum of 15 child-related credits OR 24 child-related credits from an accredited college? YES NO

In addition to the VPI+ teacher being licensed with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, does your program require at least 50% of Lead Teachers to have a National Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) OR 12 total child related credits OR another approved credential, such as an American Montessori Society Credential? YES NO