

INCREASING CHOICE + OPPORTUNITY FOR VIRGINIA FAMILIES BY INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Support [H.B. 1423 \(Coyner\)](#) / [S.B. 1404 \(Barker\)](#) / [Item 136 #68h \(Coyner\)](#)

Access to quality child care and early childhood education is essential to the well-being of Virginia's children, families, communities, and economy. These programs allow parents to work and support their families, while ensuring children gain the academic and social-emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Regrettably, Virginia families continue to struggle with an ongoing child care crisis resulting in an insufficient supply of affordable, accessible child care options.

WITHOUT A STRONG CHILD CARE SYSTEM:

Parents can't work

Virginia ranks 38th in the nation based on rate at which women have returned to the workforce.

Providers can't operate

50% of Virginia child care programs didn't make any profits last year and 80% of programs have at least one staffing vacancy, meaning fewer families and kids served.

Businesses can't succeed

76% of Virginia employers reported that child care availability impacted their workforce recruitment and retention.

Children can't learn

66% of Virginia children from low-income households who lack access to preschool are not ready for kindergarten (compared to 42% not ready overall).

Supporting Virginia's Workforce While Improving School Readiness [\(Item 136 #68h \(Coyner\)\)](#)

To begin addressing the child care crisis, closing achievement gaps, and supporting Virginia's most at-risk families, we must secure robust state investments in the Mixed Delivery and the Child Care Subsidy programs. A \$200M investment will empower parents with choice and opportunity to support their child's school readiness and their own employment success.

These investments will:

- Expand the number of children served in the Child Care Subsidy and Mixed Delivery programs
- Fund services at the cost of quality – ensuring stability, supply and quality
- Provide services for Virginia's most at-risk families, including for children ages 0-3

Establishing Oversight and Accountability for Long-term Success [\(H.B. 1423 \(Coyner\)](#) / [S.B. 1404 \(Barker\)](#))

Building on decades of work to strengthen early childhood education in Virginia, we must establish a Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education. The Commission will support accountability as well as long-term fiscal planning and investments to expand access to and the quality of Virginia's public-private child care system.

The Commission will:

- Gather and analyze data relating to child care availability, quality, and cost
- Support the development of an integrated reporting process linking access, quality, and educator data with preschool growth and school readiness
- Report on state child care expenditures, outcomes, and impact to ensure return on investment
- Develop recommendations focused on improving family choice, access, affordability, and quality

The Virginia Promise Partnership is a coalition of leading organizations together with our growing network of advocates working toward our goal of ensuring all Virginia families have access to quality, affordable child care by 2030.

