

# Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grant Program Update

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# Charge of the Joint Subcommittee

*Goals and objectives will be to consider*

- 1. increasing accountability, flexibility, innovation*
- 2. clarification of the state's role and policy relating to providing preschool for economically disadvantaged children*
- 3. further develop the facilitation of partnerships between school divisions and private providers*
- 4. 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.*

*- from Chapter 665, of the 2015 Acts of Assembly (Item 1, Paragraph Q)*

# Findings

- Young children are learning continuously
- Quality matters
- Working families need options for children's early care and education (ECE)
- Early childhood educators need specific skills
- ECE financing is fragmented and inefficient

# Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grants Address Charges 1 and 3

Competitive grants for local communities to design and model **flexible** preschool systems that work for their families

- Field test **innovations**, within a time-limited pilot initiative, for robust mixed-delivery preschool systems, **utilizing partnerships between public schools and private child care centers**
- Local decision-making and **accountability** strategies

# Mixed Delivery Grants Process

- RFPs for competitive process
- Review panel, scoring
- Awards made for 2 year terms for each cohort
- Technical assistance and sharing best practices
- Reporting
- Evaluation

# Mixed Delivery Progress

- Providing options for working families through access to quality preschool services in private settings with flexible and longer hours
- Adding preschool slots in community-based classrooms
- Supporting quality of services
- Helping stabilize private sector ECE as small businesses within communities

# Lessons Learned

- Feasibility of locally-driven mixed-delivery systems; barriers remaining
- Importance of pathway for affordable credentials and strategies that support talented early educators
- Complexity of families' access to affordable, quality early childhood education
- Critical need for addressing efficiency of ECE systems and financing

# Opportunities Ahead

- Integrate insights from Mixed Delivery, VPI+, JLARC report, etc. into state's preschool decisions and investments
- Continue to refine system for supporting a talented early education workforce
- Consider integrated financing strategies that promote stable, quality services for 0-5 ECE
- Incentivize and sustain quality for 0-5 ECE
- Establish a vision and strategic plan for Virginia's 0-5 ECE system