



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: A SMART INVESTMENT

Joint Board of Supervisors-School Board
Retreat

June 14, 2016



WHY INVEST?

CHILDREN

- Close the learning gap and improve equity in achieving lifelong learning

COMMUNITY

- Increase economic activity and adult human capital development

ENSURE SUCCESS

- Start from birth
- Serve children *and* their families
- Enhance program quality

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A young child with dark hair is looking down at a book, partially visible in the bottom left corner. The child is wearing a white shirt with a red patterned tie. The background is a light green color.

SCHOOL READINESS: AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

“School readiness” describes the capabilities of **children**, their **families**, **schools**, and **communities** that will best promote student success in kindergarten and beyond.

Each component – children, families, schools and communities – plays an essential role in the development of school readiness.

No one component can stand on its own.

Virginia’s Definition of School Readiness

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THE NEED FOR INVESTMENT

76,316 children under the age of 5 in Fairfax County

15,721 (20.6%) children under the age of 5 living below 200% federal poverty level

- **6,181** (8.1 %) children under the age of 5 living below 100% federal poverty level

Currently Serving

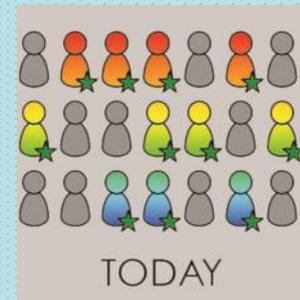
2,608 children under the age of 5 in County/FCPS funded slots

2,319 children under the age of 5 in the Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) program

Waitlist

1,444 children under the age of 5 on CCAR waitlist

427 children on PreK waitlist



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THE NEED FOR INVESTMENT

2,078 (16.7%) kindergartners did not meet the FCPS fall reading intervention benchmark and referred for services in SY15-16

1,429 (11%) of children entering kindergarten did not have a preschool experience in SY15-16

- **957** (67%) of children who identified as not having a preschool experience are also English Learners identified in SY15-16
- **857** (60%) of children who identified as not having a preschool experience are also receiving free and reduced meals in SY15-16

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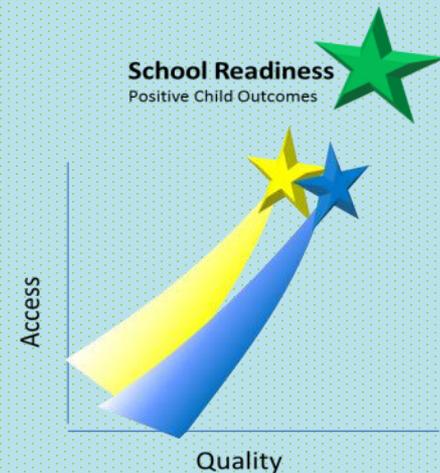
SCYPT'S MULTI-YEAR PLAN

The plan's goals and priorities include:

- Emphasis on quality and access
- Continuum of programs supporting school readiness
- Mixed delivery system which meets family needs, helps address the number of children to be served and supports public-private partnerships



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FUTURE INVESTMENT

VISION

All **children** have equity of opportunity and outcomes which ensure that they enter kindergarten with optimal social emotional, cognitive and physical development.

Families have the supports they need and access to community and school resources.

Community is a network of integrated, comprehensive services for all.

Families, community and **schools** partner in support of children's success.

PATHWAY

Develop a strategic plan that supports equitable access to high-quality early childhood learning and development programs.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING ACCESS

Community and school sites that could provide early childhood programs and offer a broad array of family centered services.

Short-term with minimal renovation

- Old Annandale Elementary School
- Alan Leis Center

Mid-term with renovation

- Old Mount Vernon High School
- Braddock Glen
- Graham Road
- Lake Anne Professional Building

Longer-term

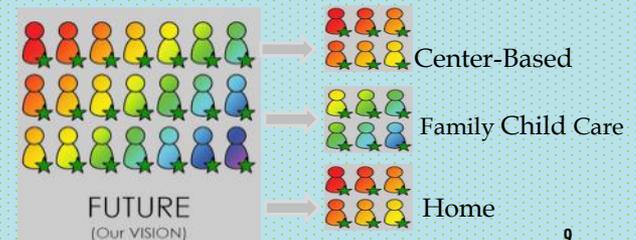
- Willston Center
- FCPS sites in Herndon, Falls Church and Alexandria

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RECOMMENDATIONS

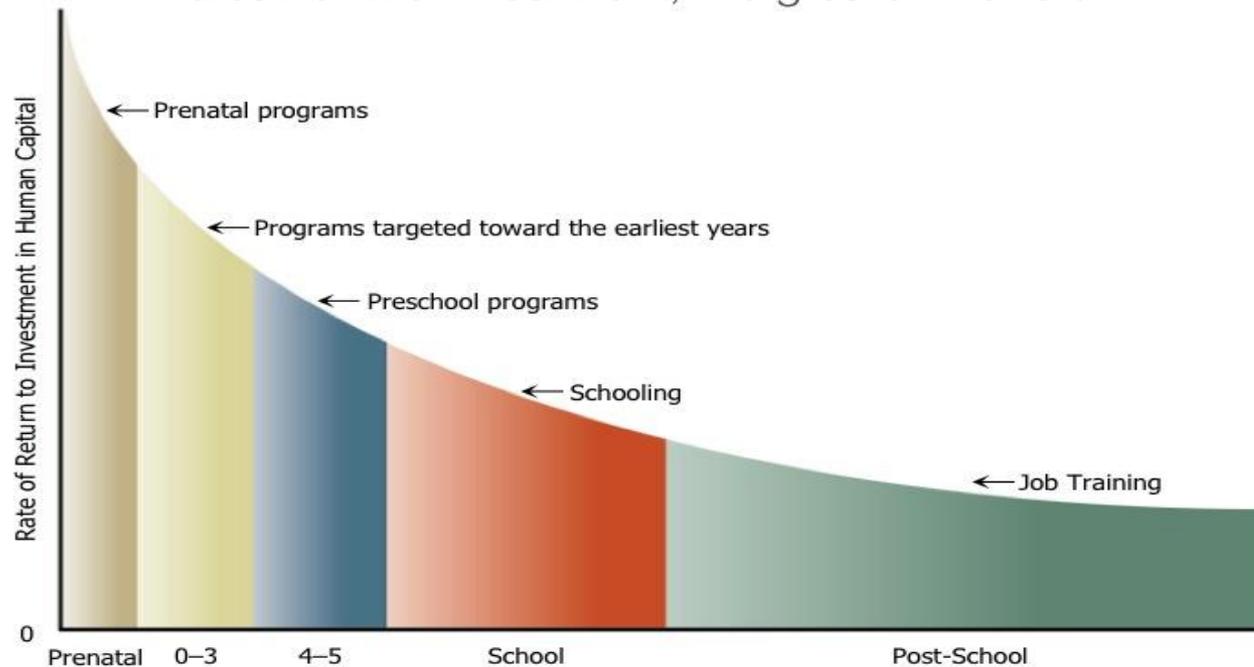
- Continue and fund strategies of existing SCYPT multi-year plan endorsed in 2013. The plan includes:
 - Developing an integrated early childhood longitudinal data system
 - Identifying space for place-based coordinated services for children and families
 - Enhancing quality:
 - Virginia Quality Initiative
 - Coaching and professional learning for early childhood educators
 - Expanding Neighborhood School Readiness Teams
 - Increasing access through CCAR and VPI
- Pursue and fund additional mixed delivery sites
 - Serving additional children (approximately \$15,000 per three/four year old or \$1.5M per 100 children)
- Engage in implementation of the school readiness strategic plan

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics