



# Fairfax County Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan

Board of Supervisors Economic Advisory Commission Meeting

Betsi Closter, School Readiness Coordinator  
Anne-Marie Twohie, Office for Children

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Fairfax County  
Equitable School Readiness  
Strategic Plan  
*Birth to Eight*

# A Smart Investment: The Science and Economics of Early Childhood Education

Investment in quality early childhood experiences reduces social costs and promotes economic growth.

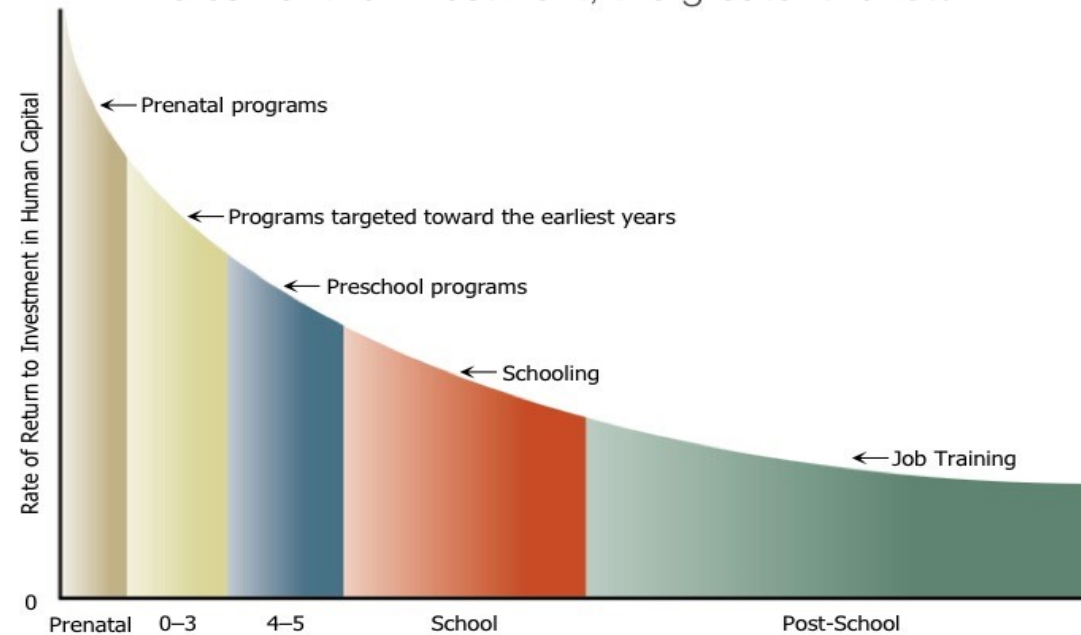
- Children who have high quality early childhood experiences:
  - Are healthier
  - Attain higher levels of education
  - Earn higher incomes
  - Are less likely to become involved with the criminal justice system
  - Become productive members of society
- Investments in the most vulnerable children are critical and have the greatest impact.
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_mup55AcqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_mup55AcqY)



# A Smart Investment: The Science and Economics of Early Childhood Education

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

# A Smart Investment: The Science and Economics of Early Childhood Education

“Investing in children’s earliest years is a long-term, upstream strategy for developing our nation’s human capital.”



<https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/workforce-today-workforce-tomorrow>

# A Smart Investment: The Science and Economics of Early Childhood Education

- The Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan is aligned with the County's *Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County*
  - Goal 5: Achieve Economic Success through Education and Social Equity
    - 5.1 (a) Expand access to quality early child care and Pre-K education for all.
- The One Fairfax Policy includes school readiness as an area of focus to promote equity.



# Children in Fairfax County

## 73,697 children under the age of 5 in Fairfax County

Approximately 1 in 5 children is economically disadvantaged

- 13,855 (18.8%) children under the age of 5 living below 200% federal poverty level
  - 5,380 (7.3%) children under the age of 5 living below 100% federal poverty level

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016 data*

1,589 (12.18%) kindergarteners who were assessed using the DRA2 Word Analysis did not meet the FCPS fall reading intervention benchmark and received additional support in SY16-17.



# A Two-Generation Workforce Strategy





# Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

Sustained momentum and increased investment is needed to ensure that all young children in Fairfax County will have the equitable support and resources necessary to begin school fully ready to succeed and thrive.

The Strategic Plan lays out the vision and strategies, responsive to the needs of families, to achieve positive outcomes for each child.

# Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

## **School Readiness Vision**

All children enter kindergarten at their optimal developmental level with equitable opportunity for success.

## **School Readiness Mission**

Families, communities, schools and the county work together to build an equitable, coordinated and comprehensive system that ensures young children in Fairfax County are ready to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.

# Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

## Goals

- All children are ready.
- All families are ready.
- All professionals are ready.
- All schools are ready.
- Our community is ready.

# Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

## **Strategy One**

Establish meaningful partnerships with families to grow school readiness opportunities in all communities and support children's optimal development in all settings.

## **Strategy Two**

Provide equitable offerings of high-quality early development and learning experiences and related school readiness supports throughout the county.



# Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

## **Strategy Three**

Foster quality and effective professional learning in all early childhood programs and services.

## **Strategy Four**

Promote equity-focused planning and decision making, as well as shared accountability, through the use of data.

## **Strategy Five**

Nurture a whole community commitment to school success for all children.

# Implementing the Plan

## Year One

- Bringing the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan to the community
- Expanding early childhood services/slots
- Expanding Nurse-Family Partnership
- Implementing the Early Development Instrument
- Bringing Mind in the Making to the community
- Implementing developmental and social emotional screening tools in community early childhood programs

# Contact Information

Maura Burke, Fairfax County Public Schools

[Maura.Burke@fcps.edu](mailto:Maura.Burke@fcps.edu)

Betsi Closter, Office for Children

[Betsi.Closter@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Betsi.Closter@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Anne-Marie Twohie, Office for Children

[Anne-Marie.Twohie@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Anne-Marie.Twohie@fairfaxcounty.gov)