



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

# Year One Implementation Plan

The Fairfax County Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan lays out a vision and roadmap for ensuring that all young children in Fairfax County have the supports they need to be successful in school and beyond.

Successful implementation will similarly rely on the collaborative efforts and energy of stakeholders across the county – families, professionals, government agencies and their leaders, non-profit organizations, businesses, faith-based institutions, schools and others will all play multiple and important roles in creating a system of supports that ensure that all young children are set for success.

The Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan Implementation Planning Team has identified actions and activities for the first year of implementation.



# Strategy 1

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



<b>Action 3</b>	Involve families as partners with other school readiness stakeholders (educators, principals, policy makers, etc.) in data analysis and review, action planning, decision making, implementation and evaluation.
<b>Activity</b>	Bring the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan to the community for ongoing input and decision-making.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Department of Housing and Community Development, Fairfax County Public Schools, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, Office for Children, and Opportunity Neighborhood
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	Continuous family input informs the quality, equity and effectiveness of programs and services.

# Strategy 1

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



<b>Action 5</b>	Partner with families to support children's executive function skills through Mind in the Making and other initiatives and strategies.
<b>Activity A</b>	Create additional parent-child play groups in Fairfax County Public Schools that support children's social and emotional competencies.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Fairfax County Public Schools
<b>Resources</b>	\$10,000
<b>Outcomes</b>	Children will demonstrate gains in executive function skills including self-regulation.  Families will demonstrate increased abilities to support their children's resiliency skills and total protective factors.

# Strategy 1

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



<b>Action 5</b>	Partner with families to support children's executive function skills through Mind in the Making and other initiatives and strategies.
<b>Activity B</b>	Bring Mind in the Making to RestON by providing a parent workshop series on the Seven Essential Life Skills to two neighborhoods and hosting a community-wide Mind in the Making awareness event.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Cornerstones/RestON, Fairfax County Public Schools, and Office for Children
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	Families will demonstrate increased abilities to support children's development of the seven essential life skills (taking on challenges, self-directed and engaged learning, focus and self-control, perspective taking, making connections, critical thinking, communicating.)

# Strategy 2

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

<b>Action 1</b>	Implement the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to understand the quality and availability of school readiness supports and services.
<b>Activity</b>	Pilot the EDI in an identified neighborhood to obtain population level data on percentages of children who are developmentally vulnerable and utilize data to inform equitable decision-making regarding the provision of school readiness supports and services.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Fairfax County Public Schools and Office for Children
<b>Resources</b>	\$76,000
<b>Outcomes</b>	County will have population level data on percentages of children who are developmentally vulnerable in the five EDI domains (physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge) and areas of need will be identified.

# Strategy 2

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



<b>Action 2</b>	Increase the supply, access and affordability of quality early childhood programs.
<b>Activity</b>	<p>Serve approximately 149 additional young children in high quality, comprehensive early childhood programs in community-based settings and FCPS classrooms (54 children in community-based settings, approximately 95 children in existing FCPS classrooms.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible children will participate in a full-day early childhood program.</li> <li>• Programs will partner with families to support children’s success.</li> <li>• Health, mental health, and developmental screenings will identify any need for early intervention.</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	<p>Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan            One Fairfax Policy            Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County</p>
<b>Responsible</b>	Community early childhood programs, Fairfax County Public Schools and Office for Children.
<b>Resources</b>	County: \$810,000    FCPS: \$231,000
<b>Outcomes</b>	Additional children served in a mixed delivery system.

# Fairfax County Early Childhood Mixed Delivery System

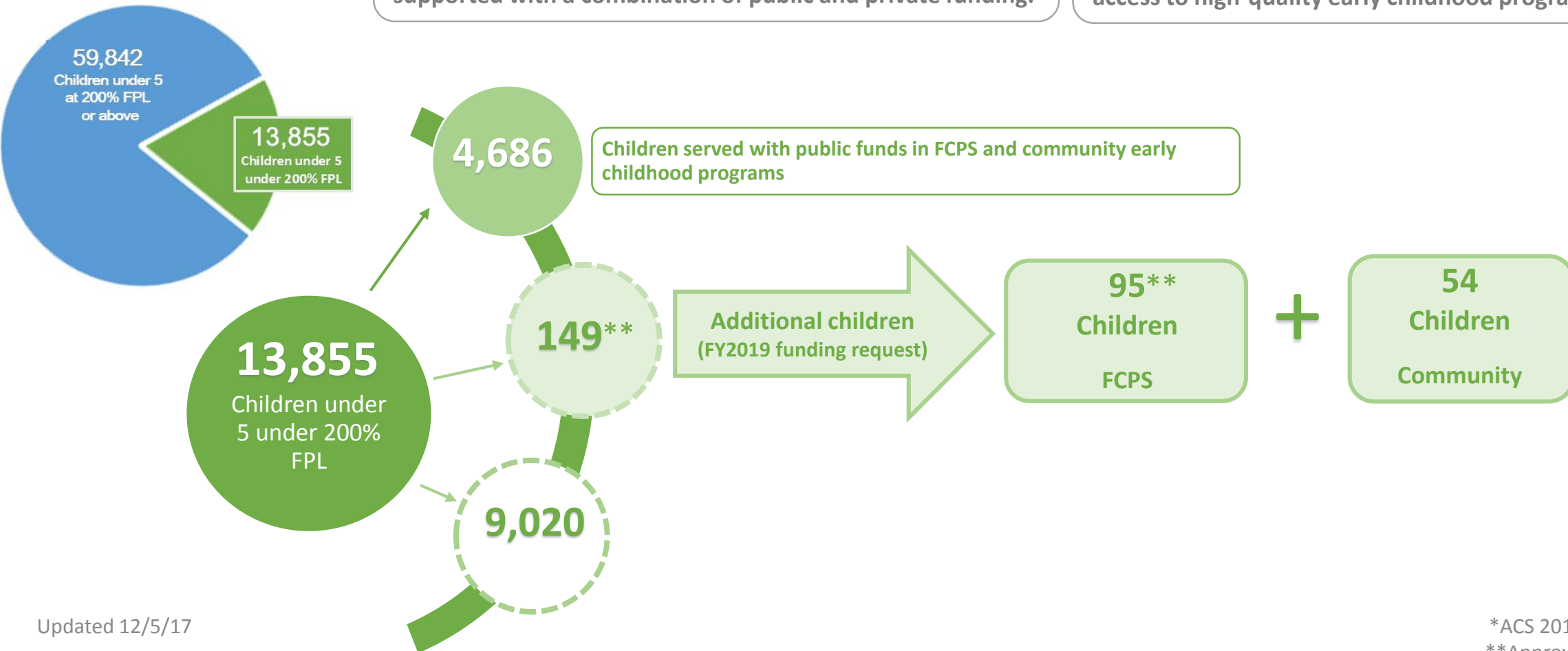
Children under 5  
73,697\*

## Mixed Delivery System:

Services offered through a variety of programs and settings supported with a combination of public and private funding.

## Goal:

The goal of a mixed delivery system is to support families' access to high-quality early childhood programs.





# Strategy 2

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



<b>Action 5</b>	Increase awareness of and access to early intervention programs and services, including existing and new programs and supports that address identified needs.
<b>Activity</b>	Expand Nurse Family Partnership by two nurse home visitors to address inequities in maternal child outcomes in the Herndon-Reston area, serving 50 additional families.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Health Department
<b>Resources</b>	\$248,000 annually
<b>Outcomes</b>	Improved health, educational and economic outcomes for first time mothers with low income who are at highest risk for poor birth outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of babies born full term</li> <li>• Percentage of babies born at a healthy weight</li> <li>• Percentage of mothers initiating breastfeeding</li> <li>• Percentage of infants up-to-date on immunizations</li> <li>• Percentage of enrolled mothers over 18 years of age working at 24 months postpartum</li> </ul>

# Strategy 2

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

<b>Action 6</b>	Expand and promote the use of developmental and social emotional screeners (e.g. ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, AEPS, DECA, ACES, etc.) among all early childhood programs, and use screener data to inform the provision of services for individual children and families.
<b>Activity</b>	Promote the use of the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE developmental and social emotional screeners throughout the county to increase early identification and intervention.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Health Department, Infant and Toddler Connection, Fairfax County Public Schools and the Office for Children
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	Increased number of children identified for and receiving early intervention services.  Increased number of early childhood programs using and promoting developmental and social emotional screeners.

# Strategy 2

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



<b>Action 7</b>	Create an equity-focused culture among stakeholders and the public to include using an equity tool to guide decision-making for all early childhood programs, services and policies.
<b>Activity</b>	Engage and support community, FCPS and county partners in using the School Readiness Equity Tool.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Fairfax County Public Schools, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children and Office for Children
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	Increased number of community, FCPS and county partners using an equity lens when making policy and program decisions.

# Strategy 2

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

<b>Action 9</b>	Create a system for prevention-focused early childhood mental health consultation services to support children’s successful participation in early childhood education programs and eliminate expulsion and suspension practices.
<b>Activity</b>	Develop an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation System for community early childhood programs to increase capacity of programs and competencies of educators to support children’s successful social and emotional development and executive functioning skills. Approximately 50 early childhood programs will participate over the course of one year.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Children's Behavioral Health System of Care Blueprint Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Fairfax County Public Schools, Healthy Minds Fairfax, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, and Office for Children
<b>Resources</b>	\$170,000 annually
<b>Outcomes</b>	Child Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gains in socialization, emotional competence and communication</li></ul> Staff Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased demonstration of best practices for supporting young children’s behavioral health</li><li>• Enhanced communication with families</li></ul> Program Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes in environment and teaching practices which support children’s social emotional well-being</li><li>• Decreased numbers of children suspended/expelled for behavior</li></ul>



# Strategy 3

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

<b>Action 1</b>	Establish a countywide early childhood professional learning coordinating council to support professional learning and alignment with quality indicators within the early childhood community.
<b>Activity</b>	Identify and convene professional learning partners and stakeholders to support early childhood educators in obtaining competencies to provide developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive experiences for young children and their families.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Fairfax County Public Schools, higher education and community stakeholders, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, and Office for Children.
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	Professional learning coordinating council established and supporting professional learning and alignment with quality indicators.

# Strategy 3

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

<b>Action 6</b>	Pursue strategies that link competencies and effective practices to higher compensation, including benefits.
<b>Activity</b>	Continue county participation in The Washington Region Early Care & Education Workforce Network, which focuses on mapping competency-based career pathways that are linked to quality and compensation and can be used across the region.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Fairfax Futures and Office for Children
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	Competency-based career pathways linked to quality and compensation used countywide.

# Strategy 5

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



<b>Action 4</b>	Partner with families, businesses, faith-based organizations, early childhood professionals, community groups, libraries, schools, government and others to collectively develop strategies and structures that build community, social connections, and the sense of belonging and support for all Fairfax County families (e.g., learning about child development via social interactions at parks, malls, schools, etc.).
<b>Activity</b>	Inform land use and development policy and practice to support the creation of the Master Development Plan for the redevelopment of Original Mount Vernon High School and surrounding area to provide an early childhood education system responsive to community needs.
<b>Alignment with Other Plans</b>	Ignite, FCPS Strategic Plan One Fairfax Policy Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County
<b>Responsible</b>	Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
<b>Resources</b>	Existing
<b>Outcomes</b>	New resources including early childhood programs, supports and services that meet the needs of families exist in the Mount Vernon community.

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