

Fairfax County
Equitable School Readiness
Strategic Plan

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team



- **Vision:** A community where all children and youth thrive and reach their full potential.
- **Mission:** The Successful Children and Youth Policy Team provides policy and resource guidance and champions the collective efforts of the Fairfax community to ensure all children, youth, and their families and communities have equitable access to quality services, supports, and opportunities to further their success and well-being.

Shared Community Level Outcomes



Children get a healthy start in life.

Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

Children and youth succeed academically.

Children and youth are healthy.

Children and youth are physically healthy.

Children & youth are socially, emotionally, and behaviorally healthy and resilient.

Children and youth are safe and free from violence and injury.

Youth earn a post-secondary degree or career credential.

Youth enter the workforce ready to succeed.

Youth contribute to the betterment of their community.

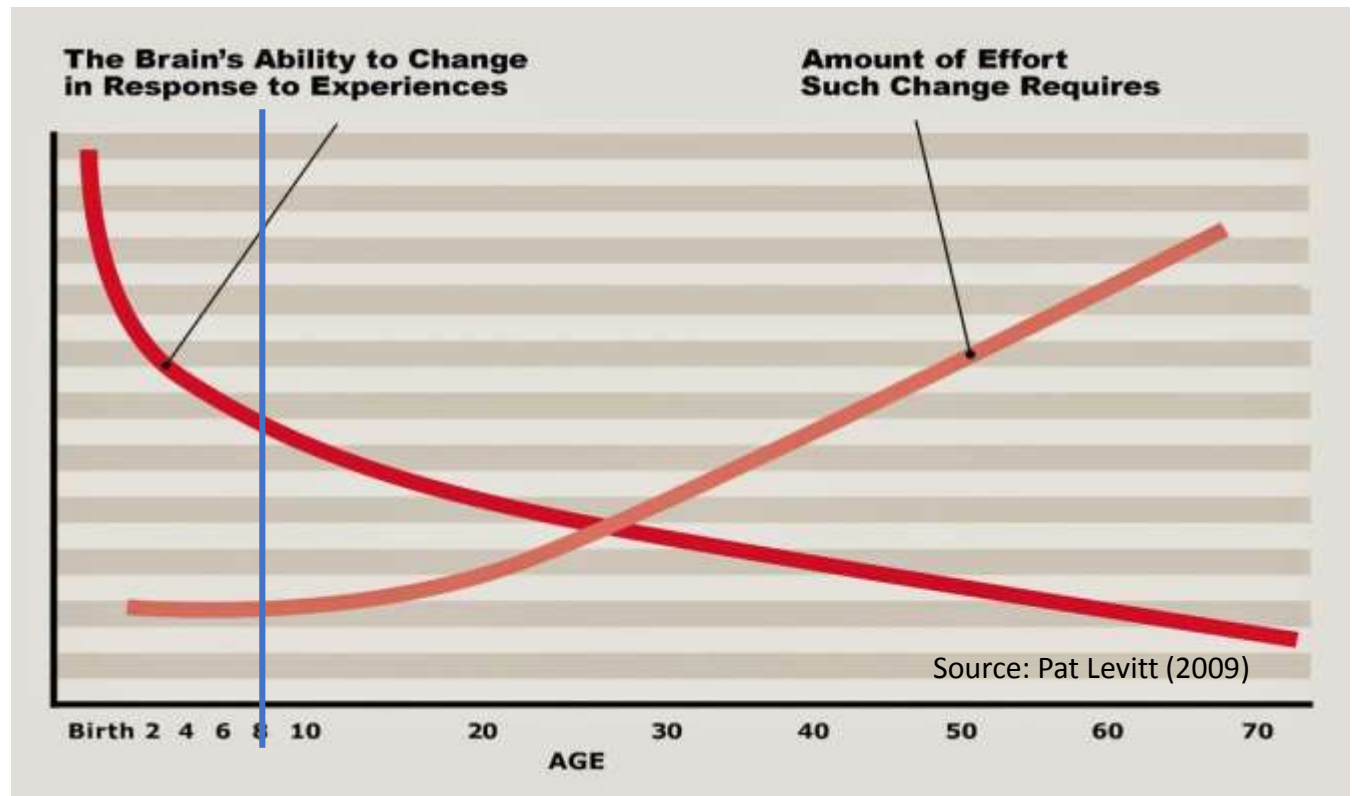
A Smart Investment: The Science and Economics of Early Childhood Education

Long term studies of children's participation in high-quality early childhood development programs consistently find lasting and important benefits for the children, their families, and the community.

- Improve child well-being
- Close the achievement gap
- Improve equity in achieving lifelong learning
- Increase economic activity and adult human capital development

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

More beneficial and less costly to support strong brain development in the early years than to intervene later on.



Center for the Developing Child, Harvard University

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

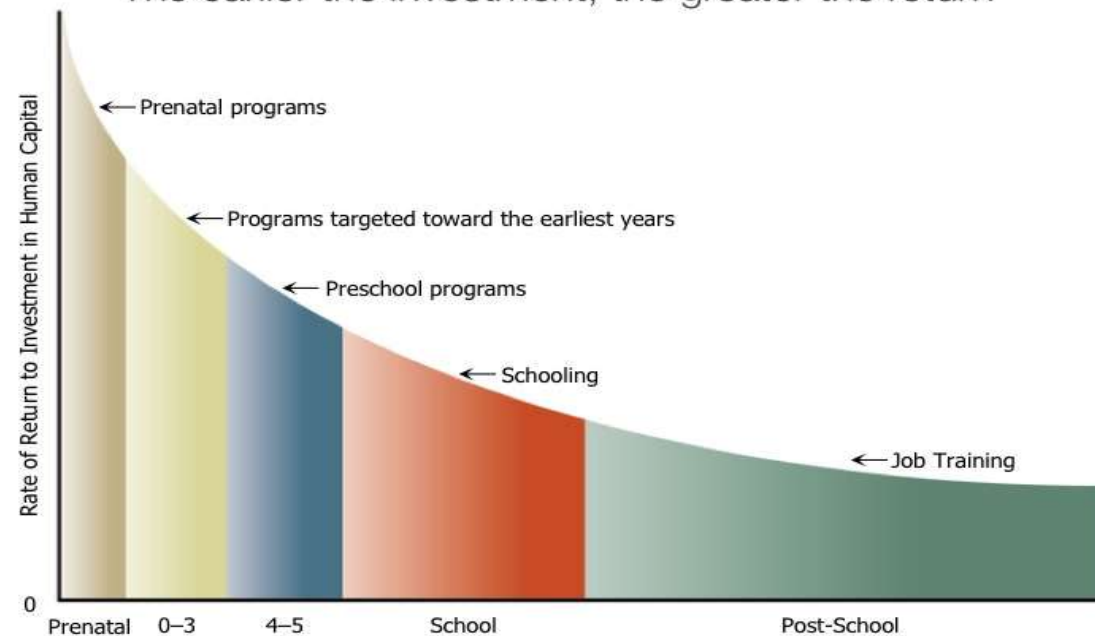
Investment in quality early childhood experiences reduces social costs and promotes economic growth.

- 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.

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

Investing in Fairfax

Public investment in school readiness supports: \$135 million

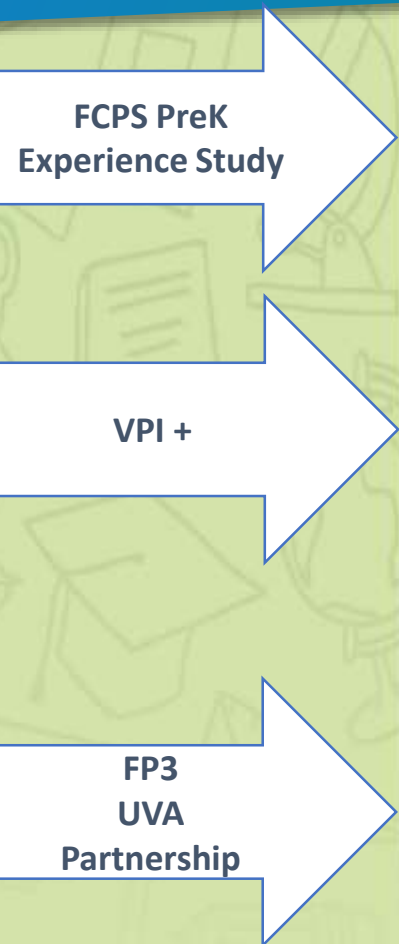
Prenatal, Earliest Years, Preschool

Programs Include:

Maternal Child Health Services, Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families Fairfax, Infant Toddler Connection, Infant Toddler Specialist Network, Early Head Start, Head Start, PreK, Early Childhood Special Education, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Early Literacy Program, Child Care Assistance and Referral, Virginia Quality, USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, Community Education and Provider Services



Investing in Fairfax

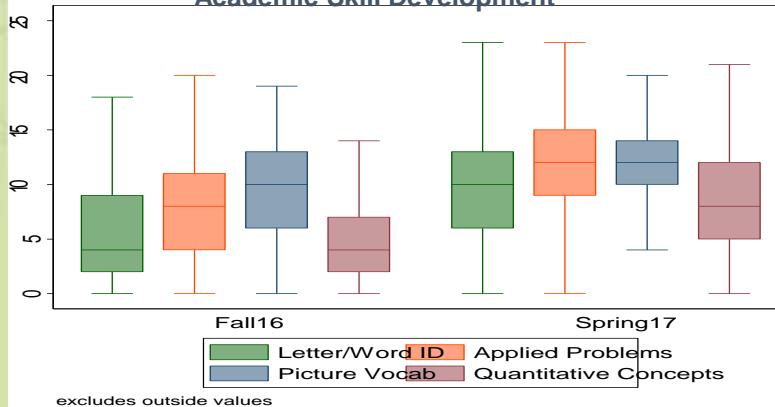


Children participating in FCPS Family Early Childhood Program/Head Start required fewer special education services and children participating in the program for two years required fewer ESOL services – a savings of approximately \$6.4 million.

VPI+ study demonstrates gains students made from Fall to Spring in self-regulation.



Fall-Spring SY16-17 Pre-K Increases in Academic Skill Development



The initial results of the FP3 study show gains students made from Fall to Spring in Math and Literacy.

Gaps Persist

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

Approximately 1 in 5 children are 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.

Gaps Persist

Income inequality is on the rise. The proportion of residents experiencing poverty is also on the rise and the rate is higher for communities of color.

Source: Fairfax County Equitable Growth Profile 2015

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.

Pathway to Equitable School Readiness



- One Fairfax Policy includes school readiness as an area of focus to promote equity.

“An early childhood education system that ensures all children enter kindergarten at their optimal developmental level with equitable opportunity for success.”

- An Equity Framework and Tool supports the Equitable School Readiness Plan.

“One Fairfax can only be realized with an intentional racial and social equity policy at its core for all publicly delivered services. A racial and social equity policy provides both the direction and means to eliminate disparities, and work together to build a vibrant and opportunity-rich society for all”

One Fairfax Resolution

Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

Implementing the Plan

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. (Strategy Two, Action 9)

Pathway to Equitable School Readiness

Request SCYPT endorse the Fairfax County Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan.

- In February 2018, staff will present a Year One Implementation and Resource Plan for endorsement.
- Staff will present implementation plans and accomplishments on an annual basis.

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