

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

### Pre-Kindergarten

2017-2018

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## Program description and Eligibility Criteria

### A. What is Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)?

The purpose of the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) is to provide a high quality educational program for children in Virginia who are considered at-risk for learning difficulties and to prepare them to be successful in kindergarten. Students will be engaged in high quality preschool education that will encompass health and nutrition services, social services, parental involvement, and transportation. YCSD's VPI program provides a variety of enriching activities in a nurturing educational setting designed to prepare children to be successful in kindergarten.

## Eligibility Criteria, Cost, Locations, Attendance and Transportation

### A. Eligibility Criteria for VPI

#### a. How are children selected?

Children and their families that meet one or more of the criteria listed below can be eligible for the VPI program.

**Children are selected based on the level of need and not on a first come first selected basis.**

- ✓ Child must turn 4 years old on or before September 30
- ✓ Child/family (at or below 200% federal poverty guidelines)
- ✓ Child/family is homeless
- ✓ Family income is less than 350% of federal poverty guidelines in the case of a child with a documented disability (must be documented by an IEP team)
- ✓ Child's parent(s) or guardian(s) are school dropouts

**b. If I am an YCSD employee, but not a York County resident, is my child eligible for the VPI program?**

No, the child must reside in York County, regardless of where a parent is employed.

**c. Does my child have to be toilet trained to participate?**

Yes, it is preferred that the child is toilet trained

**B. Cost, Locations, Attendance and Transportation**

**a. What is the cost of VPI?**

The program is free for eligible children

**b. What are the days of attendance?**

Children attend in the afternoon for 4 half days a week (Monday-Thursday). Hours vary by school location.

**c. Is transportation provided?**

Yes, transportation is provided within York County at no cost.

**d. Where are the programs located?**

VPI programs are located in various elementary schools in York County.

**Application Process, Accepted Applicants, Waitlist, transfers**

**a. Who should apply?**

Any child that is a resident of York County and who meets the eligibility criteria for the program

**b. When do I apply to the VPI program?**

Applications are accepted beginning April 1st until all slots are filled.

**c. Where do I apply?**

Families can apply on line by following the link below or applications can be picked up at the following locations:

- ✓ Any YCSD elementary school
- ✓ The York County School Division School Board Office located at 302 Dare Road, Yorktown, Virginia
- ✓ The York County Head Start Office located at 1490 Government Road, Williamsburg, Virginia.

**d. How do I apply?**

Submit a VPI or Joint Application along with required documentation online, to your zoned school, or to any one of locations listed above.

Verification forms include copies of a) Birth certificate; b) proof of residency; c) W2 for the current year; or d) three most recent pay stubs.

**e. Can I apply after the start of the new school year?**

Yes, applications are accepted all year.

If there are no openings at the time of application, the application is placed on the waitlist if the child meets eligibility criteria for VPI. Families will be contacted in the order of 1) family points on criteria sheet or 2) the order in which application was received and approved.

**f. Is before and after school care available for my child?**

The school division does not provide any before or after school care for children who are not school age.

**A. Accepted Applicants, Waitlist, and Transfers**

**a. When do I find out if my child has been accepted into the VPI Program or placed on a waitlist?**

Notification of acceptance, denial or placement on the waitlist should be received by the parents by email, phone or mail within 10 business days.

**b. How long is a slot held for a child that has been accepted into the program?**

Parents have 10 business days to register and enroll their child once that have received official notification of acceptance. Parents must contact the Coordinator of Student Services if there are issues with the registration prior to the 10 day deadline. If the parents do not contact the Office of Student Services by the deadline indicated in the letter, the open slot will be offered to the next qualified child from the list.

## **Registration Process, Student Progress and Getting More Information**

**A. Registration Process**

**c. What documents do I need to register my child for school?**

Families need to complete a registration packet for each child. Registration packets are available at the zoned school in which the child would attend if they were kindergarten age or parents can pre-register by going on line @ \_\_\_\_\_

## **B. Student Progress**

### **d. Is there a curriculum used in VPI?**

Yes, The Creative Curriculum for Young Children is researched-based and aligned to the state standards for preschoolers in Virginia.

### **e. How are the children monitored for progress?**

- ✓ York County's team of Highly Qualified/Licensed teachers conduct ongoing assessment and data collect.
- ✓ Children are assessed using PALS twice a year
- ✓ Progress is reported to parents on a quarterly basis

## **C. How can I get more information about VPI?**

The YCSD website has information about VPI and other preschool options. The Office of Student Services can provide further information at 757-898-0308.