Frequently Asked Questions

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
Pre-Kindergarten
2022-2023

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Program Description and Eligibility Criteria

A. What is Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)?

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) provides a high-quality preschool education for children that have been identified as at-risk. Through a focus on advancing effective interaction and instruction, VPI programs help ensure all Virginia children enter school fully prepared for success. VPI programs are called to make continuous quality improvements in 1) use of integrated, evidence-based curriculum, 2) assessing teacher-child interactions, and 3) providing individualized professional development.

Eligibility Criteria, Cost, Locations, Attendance and Transportation

A. Eligibility Criteria for VPI

Children who turn 3 or 4 years old on or before September 30 and whose families that meet one or more of the criteria listed below may be eligible for the VPI program.

- ✓ Child must turn 3 or 4 years old on or before September 30
- ✓ Child/family (at or below 200% federal poverty guidelines)
- ✓ 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/family resides in York County (**Attach proof of residency in York County for verification**)
- ✓ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) is active duty military
- ✓ Child/Sibling(s) receive free or reduced lunch
- ✓ Child/family is homeless
- ✓ Child is in foster care or living with a non-relative
- ✓ One Parent Household
- ✓ Parent that is incarcerated
- ✓ Student's Parents / Guardian(s) did not complete high school
- ✓ Child has an IEP/IFSP or is in the special education evaluation process
- ✓ Are there any medical/mental health/behavioral challenge(s)?
- ✓ Family speaks a language other than English at home

a. How are children selected?

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

b. Must my child be toilet trained to participate?

No, it is preferred that the child is toilet trained but not required.

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 Monday-Friday for four hours. Start times vary by school location.

c. Is transportation provided?

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

d. Where are the programs located?

VPI programs are located in selected YCSD elementary schools.

Application Process, Accepted Applicants, Waitlist, Transfers

A. Application Process

a. Who should apply?

Any child that is 3 or 4 years old by September 30, 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 year-round and a waitlist is maintained after all available slots are filled.

c. Where do I apply?

Families can locate the 2022-2023 York County Preschool Program Joint Application on the York County School Division website 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 the 2022-2023 York County Preschool Program Joint Application along with required documentation by mail or in person to York County School Board Office or Head Start.

Verification forms include copies of a) Birth certificate; b) proof of residency; and c) W2 for the previous year

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

Yes, applications are reviewed all year. Acceptance is based on eligibility and space within the program.

If there are no openings at the time of application, the child is placed on the waitlist. Families will be contacted in the order of the child's level of need.

f. Are 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.

B. 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 will be received by the parents by email, by phone call or mail.

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 they have received official notification of acceptance. Parents must contact the Office of Student Services if there are issues related to the registration process 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 must complete a registration packet for each child as follows:1) Parents pre-register online 2) Contact elementary school to set up a time to bring in required documentation to complete the registration process 3) Complete the required verification form
http://www.yorkcountyschools.org/studentInfo_Submission/default.asp.

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 collection
- ✓ Children are assessed using PALS throughout the school year (4-year old program)
- ✓ Children are assessed using VKRP twice during the school year
- ✓ Progress is reported to parents on a quarterly basis for students with disabilities

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.