

Frequently Asked Questions

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

Pre-Kindergarten

2020-2021

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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 eligible children. Through a focus on advancing effective interaction and instruction and the use of an evidence-based curriculum, VPI programs help prepare children for kindergarten.

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 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 income is at or below 200% federal poverty guidelines
- ✓ Family income is less than 350% of federal poverty guidelines for children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- ✓ Child and family are York County residents (**Attach proof of residency in York County for verification**)
- ✓ Parent or guardian is active duty military
- ✓ Child or sibling receives free or reduced priced lunch
- ✓ Child/family is homeless
- ✓ Child is in foster care or living with a non-relative
- ✓ Child lives in a single-parent household
- ✓ Parent or guardian is incarcerated
- ✓ Student's parent or guardian did not complete high school
- ✓ Child has an IEP/IFSP or is in the special education evaluation process
- ✓ Child has medical/mental health/behavioral concerns
- ✓ Family speaks a language other than English in the home

1. How are children selected?

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

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

No, the child and parent must reside in York County.

3. Must my child be toilet trained to participate?

Yes, your child must be toilet trained.

Cost, Locations, Attendance and Transportation

4. Is there a cost to the VPI program?

The program is free for eligible children.

5. On what days do children attend school?

Children attend Monday through Friday for three hours. Start times vary by school.

6. Is transportation provided?

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

7. Where are the programs located?

VPI programs are in each YCSD elementary school.

Application Process, Accepted Applicants, Waitlist, Transfers

B. Application Process

a. When are VPI program applications accepted?

Applications are accepted year-round and a waitlist is maintained after all available VPI slots are filled. In the event VPI openings occur throughout the year, eligible families will be notified in the order of the child's level of need.

b. Where do I apply?

The 2020-2021 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
- ✓ Applications will be available at food service pick-up locations

c. How do I apply?

Submit the 2020-2021 York County Preschool Program Joint Application along with required documentation by mail: York County School Division, 302 Dare Road, Yorktown, VA 23692, or in person to any York County elementary school or Head Start. Required documentation includes copies of a) the child's birth certificate; b) proof of residency; and c) W2 for the previous year.

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

The program does not provide before or after school care for VPI students.

C. Accepted Applicants, Waitlist, and Transfers

1. **How will I be notified of whether my child has been accepted into the VPI Program?**

Parents will be notified of their child's acceptance, denial, or placement on the waitlist by email and mail.

2. **By when must I inform the school division that my child will attend the VPI program once I receive notification of acceptance?**

Parents have 10 business days to register and enroll their child once they have received official notification of acceptance. Parents must contact Okrika Harold, VPI Coordinator at oharold@ycsd.york.va.us prior to the 10 business day deadline if special circumstances exist that prevent the parent from meeting the deadline. If the parent does not contact the VPI Coordinator by the deadline, the open slot will be offered to another child.

Registration Process, Student Progress and Getting More Information

D. Registration Process

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

Families must complete online registration for each child and schedule a time with the child's VPI program school to deliver required documentation. The family must also complete the required verification form http://www.yorkcountyschools.org/studentInfo_Submission/default.asp complete the registration process.

E. Student Progress

1. **Is there a curriculum used in VPI?**

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

2. **How are the children monitored for progress?**

- ✓ York County's team of Highly Qualified/Licensed teachers conduct ongoing assessment and data collection
- ✓ Children in the 4-year-old program are assessed using Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) throughout the school year. Three-year-old children are not assessed using PALS.
- ✓ Progress is reported to parents on a quarterly basis

F. 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.