

# We Always Thought PreK Made a Difference

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“We always thought PreK made a difference.”

Dr. John Caggiano

Deputy Superintendent – Hampton City Schools

## At Risk 4-Year Olds

**Virginia Preschool Initiative** – “As of 2005-2006, state funds are available to provide comprehensive preschool programs to 100 percent of Virginia’s at-risk four-year-olds, as defined by VPI funding eligibility, and who are not being served by Head Start. Children at or below 100% of the poverty level should receive priority for Head Start enrollment. VPI should focus on children above that poverty level.”

Virginia Department of Education

Virginia Preschool Initiative

Guidelines for the Virginia Preschool Initiative Application

2017-2018

This school year, Hampton reports a huge decline in the number of students considered economically disadvantaged in PreK. Meaning a student is eligible for Free/Reduced Meals, receives TANF, or is eligible for Medicaid. PreK went from 373 of the 673 students (55.42%) being economically disadvantaged in 2016/2017 to 2.88%, or 21 of the 728 reported PreK students in 2017/2018.

## 2015 General Assembly Virginia Preschool Initiative Guidelines

- Family income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines,
- Homelessness,
- Student’s parents or guardians are school dropouts, or
- Family income is below 350 percent of federal poverty guidelines in the case of students with special needs or disabilities.

Virginia Preschool Initiative funding for the 2016 school year was \$6,000.00 per student (currently it is \$6,125.). Hampton’s share of this funding is based on the composite index of .2773 during the 2015/2016 school year.

Using the Moton Early Childhood Center figures from 2015/2016, the expense necessary to education the 625 students eligible under VPI would come to - \$2,891,737.50. The state chipped in \$2,670,750.00. This would leave the city only funding of \$220,987.50. Much lower than what the cost share associated with the composite index - .2773. How many students lose out of the opportunity to attend PreK if Hampton is not fully contributing their fair share?

Caggiano’s report to the board last month indicated that during the 15/16 school year, 21% of the 16/17 kindergarteners received no PreK instruction. Caggiano also noted that of those 21% without PreK instruction, 24% - or 33 students - were not ready for kindergarten. Why are students being turned away if Hampton knows PreK makes a difference?

2015-2016 Moton Early Childhood Center

click on link below

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/2ea14b7df9a7032aead70f4faa28fb29?AccessKeyId=F2E1E31F591DDE27ADAF&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

### **2015-2016 District Wide**

- Number of VPI Classrooms: 36
- Number of Schools or Centers: 9
- Number of VPI Teachers who hold a BA degree or higher and a Virginia teaching license with an NK or PK endorsement: 28
- Number of VPI Teachers with Bachelor's Degrees or Higher: 8
- Number of VPI Teachers with Associate Degrees: 0
- Number of VPI Teachers with Child Development Associate Degrees (CDA): 0
- Total Number of Teachers (FTEs): 36
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with Bachelor's Degrees: 2
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with Associate Degrees: 2
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with Child Development Associate Degrees (CDA): 1
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with High School Diplomas or GED: 31
- Total Number of Paraprofessionals: 36
- What percentage of children enrolled in VPI for the current school year meet the criteria for Free or Reduced Price Lunch? 62
- Hampton City Public Schools is eligible to receive funding for up to 625 full-day or half-day (full-time equivalent) program slots.
- Hampton indicates actual participation of 625 full-day students and 0 half-day students.

### **Fall Income Data 2015**

- At or below 130%: 345
- 131% - 200%: 138
- 201%-350%: 126
- 351% and above: 16

**Total Number of Students: 625**

### **Fall Student Eligibility Criteria 2015**

- Homeless: 13
- Either parent or guardian is a high school dropout: 101
- Family income is less than 350% of federal poverty guidelines, and the student has special needs or disabilities: 18
- Family member suffers from abuse (neglect, physical, mental/psychological, substance): 0
- Single parent home: 296
- Student is in foster care: 0
- Student is English Language Learner (ELL): 50
- A parent is incarcerated: 0
- A parent is on military deployment: 43
- Student is raised by relatives other than parents: 35
- Other (Under 21 @ time of child's birth): 69

**Total Students Eligibility Criteria Amount: 625**

### **2016-2017 District Wide**

- Hampton City 2016-2017
- Number of VPI Classrooms: 36
- Number of Schools or Centers: 9

- Number of VPI Teachers who hold a BA degree or higher and a Virginia teaching license with an NK or PK endorsement: 23
- Number of VPI Teachers with Bachelor's Degrees or Higher: 12
- Number of VPI Teachers with Associate Degrees: 0
- Number of VPI Teachers with Child Development Associate Degrees (CDA): 1
- Total Number of Teachers (FTEs): 36
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with Bachelor's Degrees: 3
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with Associate Degrees: 4
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with Child Development Associate Degrees (CDA): 0
- Number of VPI Paraprofessionals with High School Diplomas or GED: 29
- Total Number of Paraprofessionals: 36
- What percentage of children enrolled in VPI for the current school year meet the criteria for Free or Reduced Price Lunch? 71
- Number of Students Eligible for Virginia Preschool Initiative Funding in 2016-2017 -
- Hampton City Public Schools is eligible to receive funding for up to 632 full-day or halfday (full-time equivalent) program slots.
- Hampton indicated actual participation of 632 full-day students and 0 half-day students.

#### **Fall Student Eligibility Criteria 2016**

- At or Below 200% (Poverty) 505
- Homeless: 9
- Either parent or guardian is a high school dropout: 47
- Family income is less than 350% of federal poverty guidelines, and the student has special needs or disabilities: 24
- Family member suffers from abuse (neglect, physical, mental/psychological, substance): 0
- Single parent home: 17
- Student is in foster care: 1
- Student is English Language Learner (ELL): 5
- A parent is incarcerated: 1
- A parent is on military deployment: 3
- Student is raised by relatives other than parents: 2
- Other Local Criteria (Under 21 @ time of child's birth): 18
- Total Students Eligibility Criteria Amount: 632