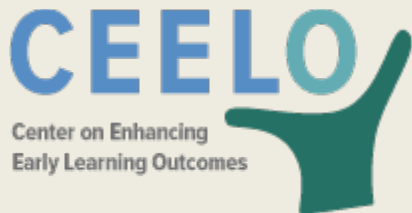


Effectively Engaging Private Partners
VPI PROGRAM
WEBINAR

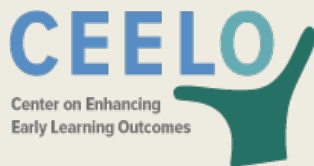
Virginia Department of Education
Thursday, March 19, 2015



Today's Presenters

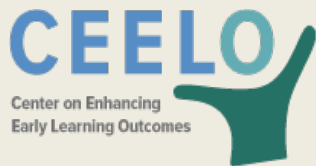
Presenters:

- **Dr. Christine Harris**, Director, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- **Cheryl Strobel**, Associate Director of Early Childhood Education, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, VDOE
- **Dr. Lori Connors-Tadros**, Project Director, CEELO
- **Betsi Closter**, VPI Coordinator, Fairfax County
- **Gail Jones**, Director, Foundational Learning & Family Engagement, Henrico County



Agenda

- Welcome
- VDOE: Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
 - VPI Program Overview & Partnerships
 - Appropriation Act Overview
- Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) Research
- Division Examples
 - Fairfax County VPI
 - Henrico County VPI
- Encourage Building Capacity with Local Partners
- Discussion/Questions



Early Childhood Education

- Purpose of the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- What does collaboration look like within the VDOE and across other state agencies that support young children and families?
- Creation of statewide strategies to encourage and enhance collaboration
- Early childhood as a Governor's priority
- Focus on early childhood policy through the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success (CCCS)
- Collaboration across agencies

Appropriation Act Language

- The lead agency shall be responsible for developing a local plan for the delivery of quality preschool services to at-risk children which demonstrates the coordination of resources and the combination of funding streams in an effort to serve the greatest number of at-risk four-year-old children.
- The proposal must demonstrate coordination with all parties necessary for the successful delivery of comprehensive services, including the schools, child care providers, local social services agency, Head Start, local health department, and other groups identified by the lead agency.

Appropriation Act Language

- Local plans must provide clear methods of service coordination for the purpose of reducing the per child cost for the service, increasing the number of at-risk children served.

Why Partnerships?



“It’s wonderful to be able to take children who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford preschool and give them a positive first experience with school and see them really ready to go on and succeed once they get into elementary school”

What Are Effective Partnerships?

- Well-defined goals and high levels of communication are related to benefits for centers overall.
 - Together these two variables explain 43 percent of the variation in benefits for centers overall.
- Well-defined goals and high levels of communication are also related to benefits for staff.
 - Together these two variables explain 24 percent of the variation in benefits for staff.

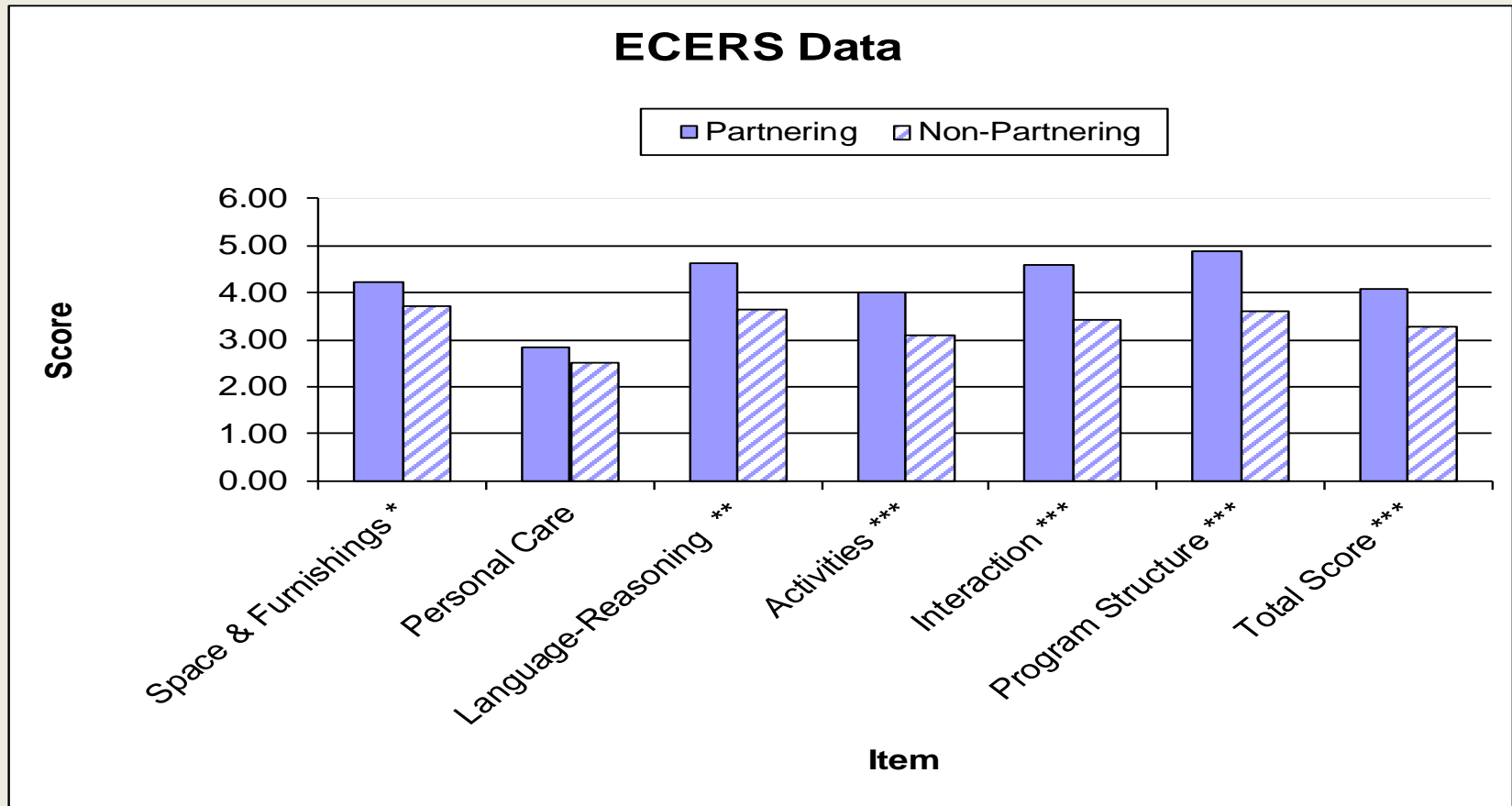
Definition of “Well-Defined Goals”

- Written partnership goals
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Agreement about the curriculum to be used
- Written procedures for communication
- A process to orient staff to the program and regulations
- Ways to prepare staff for new responsibilities
- Procedures to keep children enrolled if parents lose eligibility for state programs
- Procedures to manage finances as part of the partnership
- Regular updates of agreements

Definition of Good Communication

- Good communication within their own organization
- Good communication across organizations
- Mutual respect between partners
- A feeling that their voice was heard by their partner
- An ability to call their partner, as needed
- A view that both organizations regard each other as a full partner

ECERS-R Scores for Partnership and Comparison Classrooms



Partnerships Yield Improved Services to Parents

- Parents of children attending partnership centers are more likely to receive
 - GED services
 - Employment referrals
 - Adult literacy services
 - Financial aid
 - Health services
 - Social services

Duration of Partnership Predicts Benefits

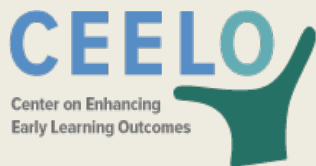
- Employment benefits to teachers
- Teacher compensation
- Teacher professional development opportunities
- Teacher beliefs about developmentally appropriate practices
- Teacher beliefs about child-initiated activities
- Teacher beliefs and reported practices related to language and literacy
- Child services as reported by parents
- Referrals and services offered to parents

Lessons Learned in Effective Partnerships

- Meet regularly
- Adapt policies to meet needs of different settings
- Respect each other's expertise
- Engage other division personnel
- Minimize burdens of blended funding
- Create on-going leadership development/ professional development for staff

Program Scope of Services Fairfax County

- Quality preschool education
- Comprehensive services
- Family engagement
- Health services
- Social services
- Transportation

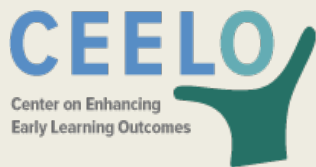


Program Monitoring Fairfax County

- Qualified early childhood specialists, resource teachers, and consultants conduct on-site visits to ensure compliance and to provide technical assistance, as needed
- On-site visit reports document all visits
- Child and family data is entered into ChildPlus

VPI Funds Fairfax County

- Curriculum implementation
- Professional development
- Family engagement
- Comprehensive services



Mixed Service Delivery Fairfax County

- Blended classrooms
- Braided funds
- Community partnerships

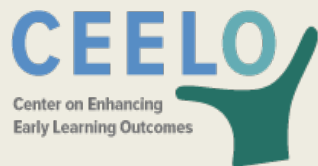


Henrico County W.H.E.E.L.S



Where Healthy Eyes and Ears Lead to Succeed

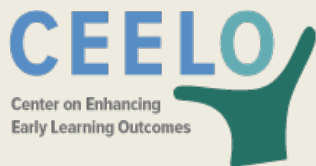
- Screens all **774** Henrico County preschool students
- Requires **no verbal response** on the part of the student
- <http://www.wheelspbma.org/>





Preparing children for long-term educational and social success

- Supports the therapeutic classroom at New Bridge Learning Center
- Based on Dr. Richard Gaskill and his play therapy approach



Henrico County Federal Programs Preschool



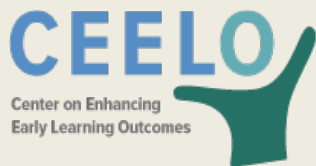
Virginia Commonwealth University



BEST in CLASS



Intervention designed to prevent and manage young children's challenging behaviors



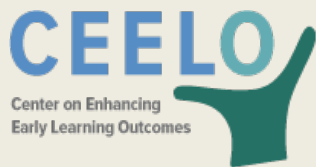
Henrico County Federal Programs Preschool



Henrico Department of Health



- Henrico Department of Health plays an active role on our Health Advisory Council and frequently recommend families new to the area to apply for the preschool program.
- They can be a students medical home if they do not have one when they enroll in our program.



Henrico County Federal Programs Preschool



Questions?

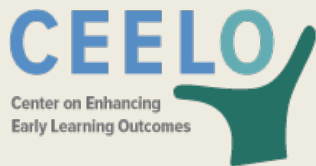
Please submit questions in the question box

We will either answer questions today with the group or get back to everyone with answers after the Webinar.

Email follow-up questions to:

Cheryl Strobel, Associate Director of Early Childhood
Education, VDOE

Cheryl.Strobel@doe.virginia.gov



Thank you for your time and attention!

Websites

<http://ceelo.org/about-ceelo/>

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/index.shtml

Sources

Diane Schilder (May 2014) Child Care, Head Start and Pre-K Partnerships, Research Findings. (Webinar recording) Available at ceelo.org (archived webinars)

Success with Mixed Delivery: What Can We Learn From NJ.

<http://nieer.org/publications/success-mixed-delivery-what-we-can-learn-new-jersey>

Partnering for Preschool <http://nieer.org/publications/latest-research/partnering-preschool>

