

Hampton Roads Early Childhood Policy Agenda 2019

A strong start for Hampton Roads' youngest children is important in getting them ready for school and for life. Minus 9 to 5 is a community-led collective impact initiative grounded in a core principle of equity, with a vision that each family in Hampton Roads will be equipped and supported to raise children who are healthy, thriving, and ready to learn.

Through community education and building of public will in support of the importance of the early years, Minus 9 to 5's diverse community stakeholders advocate for policies, programs, and services that positively impact the needs of local families and their children.

Minus 9 to 5 advocates for:

Local and state-level early childhood system coordination

- Support of state legislation outlining a cohesive, public-private, data-informed framework for early childhood in statute, including goals, principles, and targets
- Improving coordination and dissemination of community-level data that impacts early childhood outcomes

Physical and emotional well-being of young children through prenatal and early childhood parent education and support programs

- Development of a state-level, coordinated plan to integrate existing evidence-based home visiting programs into the early childhood system in collaboration with other local resources
- Improving coordination of existing regional home visiting programs to strategically leverage resources and expand home visiting capacity through federal, state and local funding opportunities
- Increasing access to family resources and parent education through an improved and coordinated resource data-base

Access and availability of high-quality early care and education opportunities for all children

- Increasing the number of regional child care providers participating in VA Quality: Incentivize participation in VA Quality and other quality improvement activities by linking child care subsidy reimbursement to demonstrated quality elements
- Expanding upon the recent Virginia Department of Social Services' increased reimbursement rates and family eligibility for child care assistance; Increase provider and family participation in child care subsidy program by identifying and addressing barriers
- Recruiting and better serving at-risk 4 year olds including year-round, full day options for working parents; serve more 3 year olds in Head Start to maximize 4 year old enrollment in Virginia Preschool Initiative

Strengthening the business model of early child care and education programs

- Developing a sustainable shared services model for early care and education programs that focuses on strengthening the business model and enhancing overall quality of these programs
- Strengthening the early care and education workforce pipeline focusing on increasing employee wages