

# Hampton Roads Early Childhood Policy Agenda 2020

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, that envisions each family in Hampton Roads equipped and supported to raise children who are healthy, thriving, and ready to learn.

We recognize the comprehensive needs of children and families include food security, transportation, housing, access to medical care and high-quality education. Minus 9 to 5's community of over 160 diverse regional stakeholders and organizations, collectively advocate for policies, programs, and services that positively impact Hampton Roads' youngest residents.

## MINUS 9 TO 5 SEEKS TO:

**Promote an early childhood system that integrates a trauma informed approach into services and programs**

- Increase understanding of the prevalence of trauma across all segments of society
- Endorse the integration of trauma informed theory and practice into training and education across sectors that work with children and families

**Enhance local and state level efficiencies through system-wide coordination and collaboration**

- Establish a single and durable point of accountability for school readiness at the state level
- Coordinate and disseminate community-level data to inform and improve early childhood strategies and outcomes
- Coordinate federal and local economic resources that benefit economically disadvantaged populations

**Advance the physical and social-emotional well-being of children through prenatal and early childhood parent education and support programs**

- Improve coordination of existing regional home visiting programs to strategically leverage resources and maximize funding
- Optimize access to community resources and parent education through coordinated systems

**Increase access and availability of high-quality early care and education opportunities for all children**

- Incentivize continuous quality improvement for early care and education programs
- Identify and address access and availability barriers to early childhood programs, such as child care subsidy, Virginia Preschool Initiative and Head Start
- Maximize available resources, creating and strengthening complimentary service provision

**Strengthen the business model of early child care and education programs and services**

- Develop a sustainable shared-services model to improve the overall quality of programs
- Attract a high performing early childhood workforce through clear career pathways, increased compensation and training in best practices

**EVMS**  
MINUS 9 TO 5

Preparing families from  
conception to kindergarten

