

Today, 41% of  
Virginia's kids  
aren't ready for  
kindergarten.

ELEVATE   
EARLY EDUCATION

Together, we can close the opportunity gap.



**Too many children are struggling when they enter kindergarten. That impacts us all.**







Our investment is moving the meter in the right direction for children. In 2020, 52% were not ready in literacy, math, social skills or self-regulation. Today, it is 41% not ready.









# ABOUT E3

## ELEVATE EARLY EDUCATION

**E3: Elevate Early Education** is a nonpartisan issue-advocacy organization that advocates for policy initiatives and state funds to be invested in early learning through third grade. Our work focuses on improving equitable access to quality education for all children.

In 2005, we started tackling this issue on the regional level as one of the first early education initiatives in the state. After a decade of innovative work, we recognized Virginia's investment in young children had flatlined and Virginia was behind other states. That led to the creation of E3 in 2011.

Together, WE have **increased access to quality** for thousands of children and families. WE **worked to improve the quality** in early learning programs and help teachers in the classroom.





# Closing the Opportunity Gap: Early Learning to Third Grade

Our children, families, teachers, early learning programs and schools are struggling. Education from early learning on up must be our **#1 priority**.

Learning, readiness and reading gaps have widened during the pandemic. Too many of Virginia's children are behind and at high risk of reading and math failure. The research is clear. Investing in quality early learning up to third grade benefits **all children**, families, communities and society.

**When our children fail,  
WE as taxpayers pay the price.**







# THE VIRGINIA SNAPSHOT:



# 41%

Of children are **NOT READY** for kindergarten in literacy, math, social skills and self-regulation.



Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The reading and math gaps are widening.

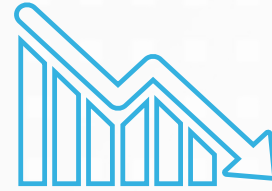


More Black, Hispanic, economically-disadvantaged + English learners are at a higher risk of not being ready for Kindergarten.

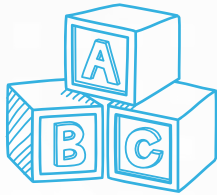




## **EARLY LITERACY MATTERS**



**1 in 6 children fall below the literacy benchmark.**



**Third grade is a critical benchmark. Children through third grade are learning to read, then they are reading to learn.**



**The first eight years matter and build a foundation for learning.**

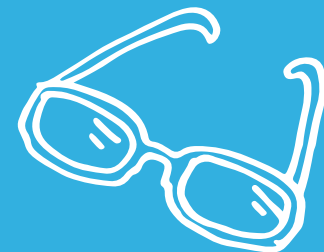


**The continuity of quality must build from year to year, academically and socially, for ALL children.**



**Third graders not reading on grade level are 4 times more likely to DROP OUT OF SCHOOL.**





# The Batten-Minor \$1:\$1 Challenge Matched!

The long-standing commitment of Jane Batten and Gil and Charlotte Minor to early education helped us give thousands of children across Virginia equitable access to quality. These generous donors and foundations helped us meet the challenge:

- Aduivans Foundation
- Joan Brock
- Louis and Pru Ryan
- Angelica and Henry Light
- Bruce and Lily Bradley
- Tommy Johnson
- The Major Family Foundation
- The Robertson Family
- Paul and Susan Hirschbiel
- JL Camp Foundation
- Cavanaugh Nelson
- Tag Greason
- Laura Novey
- Javaid Siddiqi
- LinkedIn
- Justin Black
- Sentara and Optima Health







# Big Wins For The Kids

Through the generosity of these donors, we have impacted thousands of children and families. Our awareness and advocacy campaigns secured BIG Wins through transformational policy change and increasing state investment.

- \$ Over \$36M+ in Private Investment**
- \$ Over \$167M+ in Public Investment**
- \$ Historic investment to increase access, improve quality, support teachers and programs**
- \$ Dedicated funding for over 20,000 at-risk children to have access to quality programs**



## The Innovation and Impact Fund

Our work is privately-funded. Our state is in the midst of an education crisis. We need your help to launch innovative solutions to make sure EVERY child has a strong foundation of learning during the first eight years.

A leadership gift from Joan Brock launched this fund to raise awareness on the importance of the first eight years and give more children equitable access to quality regardless of their zip code.

**Give to our Innovation and Impact Fund.**





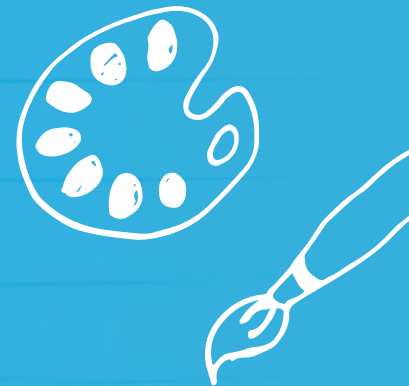


# INNOVATION AT WORK @ THE NEW E3 SCHOOL



The New E3 School is a state-of-the-art, mixed-income model for children ages 1 to 5. Our school is a catalyst for policy change in the region and state. We have proven that when **all children** have access to quality, they enter kindergarten ready academically and socially.

The STREAMin3 model can be replicated and scaled in faith-based, Head Start, private programs and the state funded Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), for at-risk children.



## Our Results:

- **High quality is consistent and strong in every classroom** (CLASS, 2022).
- **Teachers are engaged in strong interactions.**
- **Most of our children met or exceeded kindergarten readiness benchmarks.**
- **More children are not meeting the literacy benchmark.**









**RAISE YOUR  
HAND, VA**

# **OUR AWARENESS & ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS**





# BIG WINS FOR OUR KIDS

**Defined the readiness gap** by creating the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and UVA to give teachers a tool to understand the learning gaps and drive policy and investment.

**Advocated & secured \$85 Million in historical investments** to improve equitable access to quality for children and families.

**Worked with Democrats & Republicans** to make early education a nonpartisan issue.

**Advocated & secured \$10 Million** in federal GEER funds to help early learning programs during the pandemic.

**Piloted the preschool version of the VKRP** in The New E3 School & advocated for the expansion of the tool.

**Advocated and secured expansion** of the VKRP+ Pilot for grades 1-3!

**Met with gubernatorial candidates & policymakers** to emphasize that education starting with early learning must be a top priority.

Advocated for the Virginia Literacy Act **to be fully funded!**

**Advocated & advanced the expansion of The New E3 School** & UVA's STREAMin3 curriculum model to be available to all early learning programs.





**THE ACTION  
PLAN  
WHAT'S NEXT?**

## **1. Raise Awareness**

**Goal: Increase awareness on the importance of the first eight years of a child's life.**

## **2. Educate + Innovate**

**Goal: Advocate for policy change + increase state investment in early learning through third grade.**

## **3. Increase Equitable Access**

**Goal: Improve equitable access to high quality for more children + families during the first eight years.**

## **4. Build Capacity & Advancement**

**Goal: E3 will have the funding, staffing and resources to support its work.**

## **5. Innovation, Impact, & Results**

**Goal: The data will improve and investment will increase from early learning to third grade.**



**RAISE YOUR  
HAND, VA**

**ACT NOW!**

We're calling on you to join us to help our children, families, teachers, programs and schools get back on track. Let your voice be heard.



Sign up for advocacy alerts



Follow us on:  
**Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn  
& Twitter**



Give to our Innovation +  
Impact Fund







# **ACCESS.**

Improve access to quality for **ALL** children.

# **EQUITY.**

Work to improve equitable access.

# **QUALITY.**

Improve quality for **ALL** children.

# **IMPACT.**

Our children are ready to succeed  
academically and socially.

**ELEVATE**   
**EARLY EDUCATION**

**[WWW.E3VA.ORG](http://WWW.E3VA.ORG)**