The Problem

44% of Virginia's kindergarteners enter school not ready.

Early education matters. High-quality early learning provides a foundation for kindergarten readiness and later academic success. Every fall, too many children are struggling when they enter school. Without early intervention and remediation, the achievement and readiness gaps widen.

The Solution

High-quality early education can close the achievement and readiness gaps. Our strategy as a statewide, bipartisan, issue-advocacy group has been to:

- Create the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), a comprehensive kindergarten assessment to define the readiness gap in partnership with UVA's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL).
- Advocate for the 2017 Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) study entitled, Improving Virginia’s Early Childhood Development Programs.
- Prove to legislators that investment in early education leads to kindergarten readiness by creating The New E3 School and the STREAMin3 curriculum model.

The Results

In 2018, E3 advocated alongside policymakers and secured $6m in targeted investments to improve the quality of early education.

The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) - An assessment system focused on defining the readiness gap for policymakers, division and school leaders, educators and parents. VKRP is being used in ALL school divisions with a pre- and post-assessment during kindergarten to show student growth. A preschool version is being piloted, giving VKRP the capacity to measure longitudinally from preschool to third grade.

Classroom Quality and Teacher Interactions – Utilize CLASS, an observational tool that measures quality in the classroom in all VPI classrooms across 123 school divisions and align professional development.

STREAMin3 Pilot – The STREAMin3 curriculum, professional development, coaching and assessment model developed by UVA in The New E3 School with funding from E3 is being piloted in 112 private, faith-based, VPI and Head Start classrooms with $1.25m in state funds and over $1m in private funding from The Obici Healthcare Foundation and The Alleghany Foundation.

The New E3 School – A state-of-the-art, mixed-income model school for children ages one to five. UVA’s Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) developed the STREAMin3 curriculum in our school with funding from E3. In 2019, all four-year-old children met or exceeded kindergarten entry benchmarks in literacy, math, social skills and self-regulation regardless of their socioeconomic background. And, every classroom met or exceeded the benchmarks in the CLASS domains measuring quality. The school is a catalyst for policy change.

Our issue-advocacy work, made possible through your generous donations, is paying off for our children! Virginia is making early education a priority. Join us and change the fact that 44% of children enter kindergarten not ready to succeed.

Our work is privately funded.

Your gift will match the $200,000 Batten Challenge $1: $1.
E3 is advancing early education and impacting children across Virginia.