



Closing the Opportunity Gap: Early Learning to Third Grade

Who We Are:

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 for all children.

The Problem:

- **52% of Virginia’s children are not ready** for kindergarten in literacy, math, social skills and self-regulation (VA Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), Spring 2020).
- **Too many children** are falling behind. The health crisis wreaked havoc on our children’s education.
- **More children** are entering kindergarten without key readiness skills (VKRP, 2020).
- **Many** kindergarteners and first graders are at **high-risk** of reading failure. **This will impact third grade reading outcomes for years.** (PALS, 2020).
- Black, Hispanic, economically- disadvantaged and English learners are **at higher risk** of reading failure (PALS, 2020).
- **Third graders** not reading on grade level are **more likely to drop out** of school (National Conference of State Legislators, 2019).

The Research:

Tells us that investing in quality early learning programs benefits all children, families, communities and society.

Children through third grade are learning to read; after third grade they are reading to learn.

The Solution:

- Make equitable access to quality a top priority.
- Focus on improving quality in the classroom.
- Invest in quality.
- Work to align preschool through third grade.
- Measure impact from early learning through third grade.

The Impact:

- Improved access to quality programs.
- More children enter kindergarten ready academically and socially.
- Improved third grade reading.
- Increased investment.
- Dedicated funding for early learning.
- Improved funding formula.

The \$1: \$1 Challenge:

With your help, we can change the fact that too many children are entering kindergarten not ready. Now more than ever, our children need your help. The health crisis has widened the **learning, readiness and reading gaps**. Working families are struggling to find programs. We can solve this problem. High quality early education is a game changer.

Our work is privately funded. Your gift will match the Jane Batten and Gil & Charlotte Minor Challenge to help us impact thousands of children across Virginia.

ACCESS. Improve access to quality for ALL children.

EQUITY. Work to improve equitable access.

QUALITY. Improve quality for children.

IMPACT. All children ready to succeed academically and socially.

Our Policy Initiatives:

The Early Learning NOW Awareness and Advocacy Campaign

- Launch campaigns to increase investment.
- Cultivate supporters in key legislative districts.
- Activate supporters during the General Assembly session and statewide races.
- Elevate early learning as a key issue for statewide candidates.
- Educate candidates on this issue and ask them to make early learning a top priority.
- Build support in the legislature.
- Drive policy change.
- Position The New E3 School as a catalyst for policy change.
- Protect and preserve dedicated funding and investments.

Improve Equitable Access to Quality up to Third Grade

- Convene experts and stakeholders to understand how to attack the learning and reading gaps.
- Create innovative solutions.
- Build the supply side of quality early learning programs.
- Replicate and scale the STREAMin3 curriculum model.
- Plant New E3 Schools to drive advocacy and equitable access to quality.

Measure Growth and Impact

- Scale VKRP in early learning programs.
- Position VKRP as a tool for teachers, parents, programs and schools to understand the learning gaps.
- Revamp PALS literacy measure (integrated into VKRP) to prompt teacher behavior and improve instruction to address reading gaps.
- Develop, pilot and implement VKRP in first through third grades.
- Improve the funding formula.

Join us! Sign up for advocacy campaign alerts at vaearlyed.org.

Learn more about our work at e3va.org.