



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:

- **42% of Virginia's children are not ready** for kindergarten in literacy, math, social skills and self-regulation (VA Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), Spring 2020).
- **More children in K-2** are at high risk for reading difficulties. This will impact third grade reading for years to come.
- The gaps are widening for Black, Hispanic, economically-disadvantaged, English learners and students with disabilities.
- The reading and math gaps are widening.
- **Third graders** not reading on grade level are **more likely to drop out** of school (National Conference of State Legislators, 2019).

Our investment is paying off. In 2020, 52% of our children weren't ready for kindergarten. Today, it is 42% not ready. Too many of Virginia's children are falling behind. Education from early learning on up **MUST** be a top priority.

The Research:

Decades of research prove that early brain development has a lasting impact on a child's ability to learn and succeed in school and life. 90% of a child's brain is developed before the age of five. High quality early education builds the foundation for later learning.

Investing in quality early learning 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 for all children.
- Improve quality in the classroom.
- Invest in children, teachers and classrooms.
- Equip and empower teachers and families with tools to help children succeed.
- Measure impact from early learning through third grade.

The Batten-Minor \$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 and families need our help. Together, we can solve this problem and continue to secure big wins for our kids.

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.

ACT NOW!

ACCESS.

Improve access to quality for ALL children.

EQUITY.

Work to improve equitable access.

QUALITY.

Improve quality for ALL children.

IMPACT.

OurC children ready to succeed academically and socially.