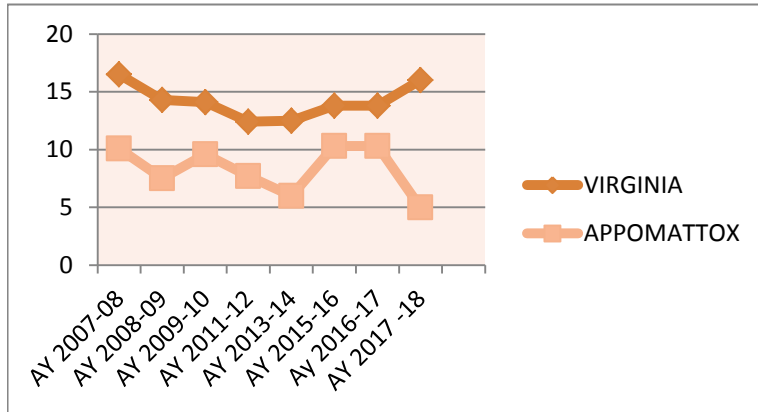




### Kindergarten Readiness

Smart Beginnings Central Virginia is part of a statewide network of coalitions that focus on early childhood development and education, with the vision that every child will enter school ready to learn. Kindergarten Readiness, in addition to referring to the skills children have mastered, describes the system of care that children experience prior to beginning kindergarten. This may include the family, community, and any early care and education settings a child attended prior to formal schooling. In Virginia, most schools assess the skills of Kindergarten students using PALS-K, a measure of children’s knowledge of literacy fundamentals, phonological awareness, alphabet recognition, concept of word and knowledge of letter sounds. PALS-K helps to identify children who are relatively behind in their acquisition of these fundamental skills.



In the county (2017-2018), 5% of children scored below readiness levels. The state percentage was 16%.

### Highlights

<b>Total Population (2017 estimate, U.S. Census)</b>	15,681
<b>Population under 5 years old (2017 estimate, U.S. Census)</b>	926
<b>Percent of persons under 5 years (2017)</b>	4.6
<b>Percent of children Living in Deep Poverty (ages 0-17) (2012-2016)</b>	38.5
<b>Percent of children eligible for free/reduced price lunch AY 16-17</b>	45.2
<b>Percent SNAP Participation Among Individuals 2016</b>	40
<b>Unemployment Rate April 2016</b>	4.6
<b>Total 2015 – 2016 Public Preschool Enrollment (VPI)</b>	73
<b>Four-year olds Served by Virginia Preschool Initiative FY 2017 (funded slots)</b>	54
<b>2015-2016 Public Kindergarten Enrollment</b>	169
<b>On-Time 4 year Graduation Rate 2016</b>	92.4
<b>Dropout Rate</b>	4.1
<b>Percent of Students Retained K-3 (AY2016-2017)</b>	3.6

### Kindergarteners Whose PALS-K Scores were Below Readiness Levels

	VIRGINIA	AMHERST	APPOMATTOX	BEDFORD	CAMPBELL	LYNCHBURG
AY 2007-08	16.5	12.7	10.1	12.8	13.2	14.9
AY 2008-09	14.3	12.1	7.5	9.9	12.8	14.2
AY 2009-10	14.1	9.9	9.6	10.4	11.8	21.0
AY 2010-11	13.3	14.4	n/a	10.2	12.4	18.2
AY 2011-12	12.4	9.0	7.7	12.3	10.5	18.5
AY 2012-13	13.0	12.4	n/a	11.7	12.8	14.0
AY 2013-14	12.5	8.5	6	12.1	4.7	12.8
AY 2014-15	12.9	11.8	n/a	11.7	8.3	12.3
AY 2015-16	13.8	16.2	10.3	12.8	5.6	14.5
AY 2016-17	14.6	17.0	13.0	15.0	8.0	16.0
AY 2017-18	16.0	18.0	5.0	16.0	9.0	17.0

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

### Third Grade Assessments

Below are the percentages of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who demonstrated proficiency on SOL tests for the school year 2016-2017.

Third Grade	State	County
English: Reading	75	70
Mathematics	75	72

### Fourth Grade Assessments

Below are the percentages of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who demonstrated proficiency on SOL tests for the school year 2016-2017.

Fourth Grade	State	County
English: Reading	79	80
Mathematics		74

### Eighth Grade Assessments

Below are the percentages of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who demonstrated proficiency on SOL tests for the school year 2016-2017.

Eighth Grade	State	County
English: Reading	76	72
English: Writing	73	71
Mathematics	74	79
Science	79	81

#### What is Quality Child Care?

Children who attend high quality preschool / childcare programs are better prepared when they enter kindergarten, are less likely to repeat a grade, and more likely to graduate.

#### Things to Consider When Choosing Care

- Health and Safety
- Education and Training of Staff
- Classroom Structure
- Interactions between adults and children
- Learning Environment & Instruction
- Commitment to Quality (VQ program)
- Communication with Families

For more information visit:  
<http://www.smartbeginningscv.org>

#### Kindergarten Readiness Leads to Success

In order to succeed in kindergarten, and fully benefit from the kindergarten experience, children need to arrive at school with many skills in place that involve:

- Physical well-being and motor development
- Social and Emotional development
- Language development
- Cognition and general knowledge

An effective Early Childhood Education and Development System includes: families that support their children’s development; schools that do everything necessary to assure the success of every child; and communities that invest time and resources in the well-being of children.

## Early Care and Education Programs

### Virginia Quality Initiative

Preschools and Child Care programs can voluntarily participate in the Virginia Quality initiative, and participate in a process of continuous quality improvement. VQ programs are evaluated and receive a rating (between 1-5 levels). The higher level rating indicates that a program has met requirements related to curriculum, staff training, high quality adult-child interactions, compliance with local governing authority and other quality indicators.

Star Quality Participation 2018: STEPS, Inc. - Appomattox Head Start



### Appomattox Literacy Intervention Project (ALIP)

Spot & Dot, ALIP's book buses are familiar sights around the Town of Appomattox and the County. The buses are outfitted as traveling libraries and provide books to childcare centers, home schooling sites, public and private pre-k classes, Head Start, and independent home care providers. The drivers assist children in selecting books to borrow and provide a story time. When school is in session, the buses operate for six consecutive weeks in the fall and spring. During summer vacation, the buses operate for an additional six weeks. Supporting Smart Beginnings' School Readiness work, ALIP promotes good reading habits and nurtures a love of reading.

#### Early Care and Education Workforce Support

Smart Beginnings supports the early care and education workforce with training, program incentives and through collaboration with other professional development programs.

#### **Professional Development**

Educational programs are available to all early childhood care and education providers. A list of upcoming programs can be found at: [www.smartbeginningscva.org](http://www.smartbeginningscva.org)

Smart Beginnings Central Virginia has active task forces in each county/city in its region. The Appomattox Literacy Intervention Program works year-round to plan and implement activities to promote literacy and early learning. Membership is free and open to anyone interested in improving services to children and helping every child to succeed in school, and in life.

## Families, Health and County Facts

- In Virginia, 27% of children under the age of six are reported to attend family-based childcare outside of their home.
- Total public school enrollment was 2,294 (A Y 2015-2016).
- In AY 2016-2017, 9.5% of children received Special Education Services.
- In 2016, 70% of third graders passed the SOL in Reading; however the passage rate by students who are economically disadvantaged was 61.5%.
- 39% of Public School teachers in Appomattox have earned a Master's Degree. (Academic Year 2015-2016)
- The percentage of grandparents who live with grandchildren and are responsible for grandchildren is 61.8%.
- Chronic absenteeism is the number of students missing 10% or more days enrolled. In Appomattox, the Chronic Absenteeism applied to 10.7% of students in AY 2016-17.
- During 2012-2016, 38.8% of children in Appomattox were living in single parent households.

#### Select Indicators:

	State	County
<b>Infant Mortality Rate 2015</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>12.0</b>
<b>Births to Mothers with Less than 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Education 2015</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Non-marital Births (women ages 15-44) 2015</b>	<b>34.50</b>	<b>45.5</b>
<b>Low Birth weight Babies 2015</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>% of Children Under Age 19 without Health Insurance 2015</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Low-income Children Under 19 without Health Insurance 2015</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Rate of Child Abuse &amp; Neglect (Founded Number Per 1,000 Children) 2016</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Teen Pregnancy Rate Per 1,000 15-17 year olds, 2015</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Teen Pregnancy rate per 1,000 18-19 year olds, 2015</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>50.0</b>