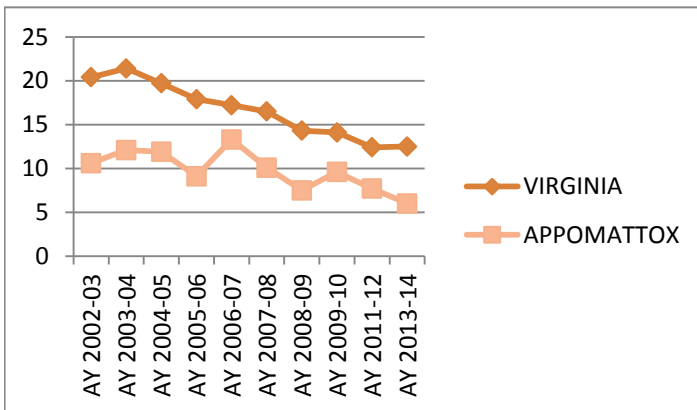




Kindergarten Readiness

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.

Kindergarteners Whose PALS-K Scores were Below Readiness Levels



In the county (2012-2013), 6% of children scored below readiness levels. The state percentage was 12.5%.

	VIRGINIA	AMHERST	APPOMATTOX	BEDFORD	CAMPBELL	LYNCHBURG
AY 2002-03	20.4	17.8	10.6	18.1	18.8	21.7
AY 2003-04	21.4	15.7	12.1	13.9	16.8	19.9
AY 2004-05	19.7	11.9	11.9	13.9	17.5	24.5
AY 2005-06	17.9	n/a	9.1	14.1	14.9	13.8
AY 2006-07	17.2	13.1	13.3	11.1	13.7	18.1
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

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

Highlights

Total Population (2012 estimate, U.S. Census)	15,128
Population under 5 years old (2012 estimate, U.S. Census)	862
Number of children receiving Child Care Subsidies (2009)	90
Percent of children Living in Poverty (ages 0-17) (2012)	24%
Percent of children eligible for free/reduced price lunch AY 13-14	46.9%
Number children in TANF (2009)	179
SNAP Participation Among Individuals 2011	3,456
Unemployment Rate 2011	7.4
Total 2013 – 2014 Public Preschool Enrollment (VPI)	79
Four-year olds Served by Virginia Preschool Initiative FY 2014 (funded slots)	32
2013-2014 Public Kindergarten Enrollment	186
On-Time 4 year Graduation Rate 2014	91.4
Dropout Rate	3.2
Percent of Students Retained K-3 (AY2011-2012)	4.44

Third Grade Assessments

Below are the percentages of 3rd grade students who demonstrated proficiency on SOL tests for the school year 2013-2014.

Third Grade	State	County
English: Reading	69	67
Mathematics	67	67
Science	83	86
History & Social Science	86	89

Fourth Grade Assessments

Below are the percentages of 4th grade students who demonstrated proficiency on SOL tests for the school year 2013-2014.

Fourth Grade	State	County
English: Reading	70	72
Mathematics	80	80

Eighth Grade Assessments

Below are the percentages of 8th grade students who demonstrated proficiency on SOL tests for the school year 2013-2014.

Eighth Grade	State	County
English: Reading	70	68
English: Writing	70	59
Mathematics	67	50
Science	74	76

What Influences School Readiness?

Many things have been shown to affect student readiness for school:

- Health issues such as lack of prenatal care and low birth weight;
- Poverty
- Abuse and Neglect
- Mother's Educational level
- High Quality Preschool / Childcare Programs: 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.

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 Star Quality Initiative (VSQI)

Preschools and Child Care programs can voluntarily participate in the VSQI initiative, and participate in a process of continuous quality improvement. VSQI programs are evaluated and receive a star rating (between 1-5 stars). The higher star rating indicates that a program has met requirements related to child-to-caregiver ratios, curriculum, staff training, compliance with local governing authority and other quality indicators.

Early Care and Education Workforce Support

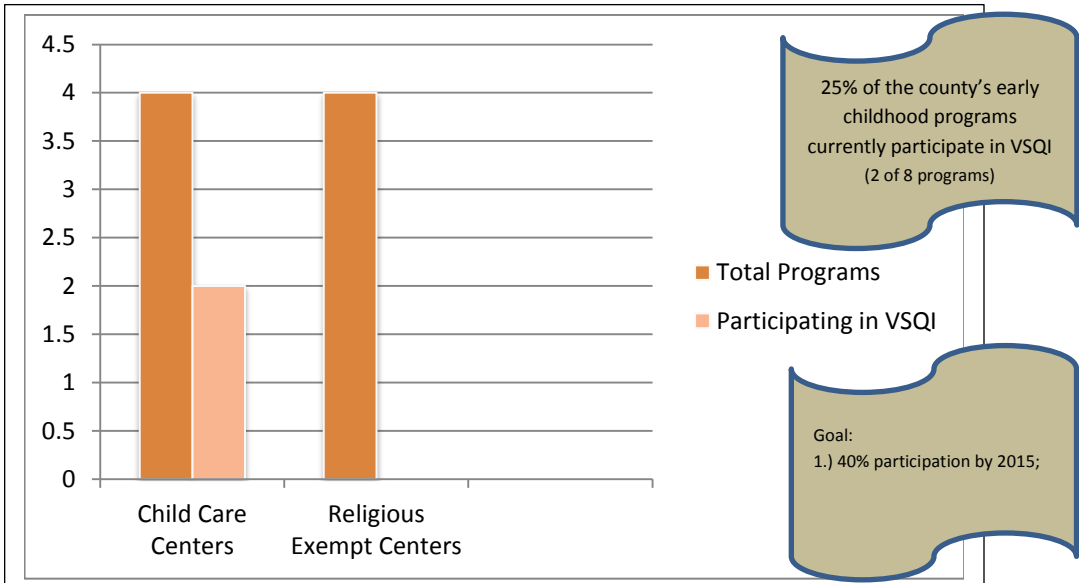
Smart Beginnings supports the early care and education workforce with training, program incentives and through collaboration with other professional development programs.

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

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.

Appomattox County Early Childhood Care and Education Programs



Star Quality Participation 2014: Precious Angels * Tiny Angels Early Learning Center

Families, Health and County Facts

- There are a total of 8 child care / early education programs registered through the Department of Social Services.
- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates 862 children under the age of five live in Appomattox County.
- Total public school enrollment was 2,345 (A Y 2013-2014).
- In 2013, 10.5% of children received Special Education Services
- There were 0 weapons offenses in schools (AY 2013-2014) and 11 offenses involving Alcohol, tobacco and other Drugs. There were 126 reports of Disorderly or Disruptive Behavior
- 42% of Public School teachers have earned a Master's Degree. (Academic Year 2013-2014)
- Significant changes: Births to mothers with less than 12th grade education increased from 6.7% in 2011 to 8.3% in 2012; the percentage of children without health insurance decreased; there were less offenses in schools in 2014 and no weapons offenses; on-time graduation rate increased substantially in 2014 to 91.4 from 79.1; dropout rate decreased from 10.2 to 3.2.

Select Indicators:

	State	County
Infant Mortality Rate 2012	6.7	0
Births to Mothers with Less than 12th Grade Education 2012	9.7%	8.3%
Non-marital Births (women ages 15-44) 2012	35.3%	42.2
Low Birth weight Babies 2012	8.2%	4.4%
% of Children Under Age 19 without Health Insurance 2012	6.0%	8.1%
Low-income Children Under 19 without Health Insurance 2012	10.3%	9.4%
Rate of Child Abuse & Neglect (Founded Number Per 1,000 Children) 2013	3.0	2.1
Teen Pregnancy Rate Per 1,000 15-17 year olds, 2012	14.3	17.6
Teen Pregnancy Rate Per 1,000 18-19 year olds, 2012	56.1	85.5