Why is Virginia creating a unified measurement and improvement system?
Public early childhood dollars serve our most vulnerable infants, toddlers and preschoolers. If we build and fund a system that:

- Empowers every educator with individualized feedback, support and resources to continually improve as professionals;
- Equipps every leader to support continual improvement through access to classroom-level information and aligned resources;
- Aligns preparation and professional development resources to address the needs of every leader, educator and child; and
- Offers every family a quality option that meets their needs;

Then our most vulnerable children will thrive, with equitable opportunity to develop the skills needed to be ready for school.

What is the unified measurement and improvement system?
It is a new system that will focus on the quality of all publicly-funded infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms and support families to choose quality programming across different program types. The new unified system reflects a multi-year effort to rethink Virginia’s Early Childhood System. Executive Directive Four intensified the call for unification and engaged hundreds of stakeholders. Governor Northam signed legislation in July 2020, formalizing the call to, move oversight for early childhood to the VDOE, establish a new Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and create a Uniform Measurement and Improvement System.

Who will be required to participate?
All publicly funded providers will be required to participate in the new unified system. In Virginia, this includes:

- Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Title I Preschool
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Child Care Centers and Family Day Homes that participate in the child care subsidy program.

Early childhood programs that do not receive any public funds will have the option to participate.

When will the new system be in place?
Over the next 3 years, VDOE will work with a variety of stakeholders to develop and scale the new system. This will include two years of practice with the new system. (All programs will have an opportunity to participate in at least one practice year.) By fall 2023, all publicly-funded programs will be required to participate with ratings shared publicly in fall 2024.

How will this strengthen Virginia’s early childhood system?
Virginia’s new unified measurement and improvement system will help build a stronger early care and education system in the Commonwealth. Our unified measurement and improvement system will...

- Provide useful data for educators and stakeholders;
- Align and strengthen infrastructure to support quality improvement;
- Enable collaboration across program types;
- Deepen family engagement by making program quality understandable and comparable;
- Demonstrate the positive impact of early childhood in order to increase investment.
## Timeline & Process for Building the New Unified Measurement and Improvement System

### FALL 2020

| Data & Policy | ● Develop proposals based on national research and current Virginia landscape.  
● Review and model current quality data from Virginia.  
● Finalize proposed set of measures.  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Engagement & Feedback | ● Conduct stakeholder engagement webinars and presentations.  
● Host listening sessions and phone calls.  
● Conduct a statewide survey for input.  |

### WINTER/SPRING 2021

| Data & Policy | ● Use data from fall 2020 to test the proposed set of measures.  
● Develop policy proposal based on feedback and data modeling.  
● Share policy with the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and the Board of Education by July 2021.  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Engagement & Feedback | ● Continue stakeholder engagement through webinars, presentations and listening sessions.  
● Seek input on proposal through the Early Childhood Advisory Committee.  
● Work with Preschool Development Grant communities (cohorts 1-3) to prepare for practice year 1.  |

### 2021-2022 YEAR (Starting July 1st, 2021)

| Data & Policy | ● Practice year 1 begins with PDG Pilot Communities  
● Review data from the practice year to inform needed revisions and gather feedback on the unified system.  
● Bring any necessary revisions to the EC Advisory Committee and Board of Education by July 2022 and prepare for practice year 2.  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Engagement & Feedback | ● Share routine updates on progress of the practice year with the EC Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.  
● Work with Preschool Development Grant communities (cohorts 1-4) to prepare for practice year 2.  |

Additional information about a set of guiding principles to inform the design and implementation of the new unified system is provided in a recorded webinar - [Quality Matters : Virginia’s Vision for a Unified Quality Improvement System](from Oct. 28th, 2020).

If you have questions or other feedback, please email kris.meyers@doe.virginia.gov