

# Student Eligibility Criteria Guidance VPI PROGRAM

Virginia Head Start Association Director's Council Meeting  
Virginia Beach  
Thursday, June 18, 2015



# Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

The purpose of VPI is to provide quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year-olds who are unserved by Head Start programs.



# Amended 2014-2016 Budget by the 2015 General Assembly (Chapter 665)

- The amended 2014-2016 budget adopted by the 2015 General Assembly was signed into law by Governor McAuliffe on March 26, 2015 without any amendments or vetoes.
- The enacted budget contains new eligibility criteria for students participating in the VPI program.

# Item 136 C.14.d.1 of Chapter 665

*“d.1) Local plans must indicate the number of at-risk four-year-old children to be served, and the eligibility criteria for participation in this program shall be consistent with the economic and educational risk factors stated in the 2014-2015 programs guidelines that are specific to: (i) family income at or below 200 percent of poverty, (ii) homelessness, (iii) student's parents or guardians are school dropouts, or (iv) family income is less than 350 percent of federal poverty guidelines in the case of students with special needs or disabilities.”*

# Guidance from General Assembly

- Guidance from the chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees allows flexibility in the implementation of the new student eligibility language for school year 2015-2016 only to allow a one-year transition from the existing eligibility criteria language to the newly adopted criteria.

# Priority Status

- For school year 2015-2016, students meeting one of the four new criteria must be given priority for enrollment in approved VPI slots.
- Then, for school year 2015-2016 only, school divisions may continue to use locally selected at-risk criteria.
- The 2015-2016 school year is the only year that will allow the transition of using both the new eligibility requirements adopted by the General Assembly and the locally selected criteria.
- Beginning in 2016-2017 school year, school divisions must use the eligibility criteria referenced on slide 4.

## Item 136 C.14 d.2

- *The Department of Education is directed to compile from each school division the aggregated information as to the number of enrolled students whose families are (i) at or below 130 percent of poverty, and (ii) above 130 percent but below 200 percent of poverty. The Department shall report this information annually, after the application and fall participation reports are submitted to the Department from the school divisions, to the Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. In addition, the Department will post and maintain the summary information by division on the Department's website in keeping with current student privacy policies.*

# Item 136 C.14 d.2

- This reporting requirement related to the new VPI eligibility criteria will be in effect for the 2015-2016 school year.
- The data collection will include the number of students enrolled in the VPI program based on existing local at-risk criteria with the total number of students enrolled reported by each individual local at-risk criterion under which they were enrolled.



# How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty

- Following the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds.
- The official poverty thresholds are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. (CPI-U)
- The official poverty index uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

# 2015 Poverty Guidelines

## 2015 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$11,770
2	15,930
3	20,090
4	24,250
5	28,410
6	32,570
7	36,730
8	40,890
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.	

# 2015 Poverty Guidelines

## 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Federally facilitated marketplaces will use the 2015 guidelines to determine eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP.

Household Size	100%	133%	150%	200%	250%	300%	400%
1	\$11,770	\$15,654	\$17,655	\$23,540	\$29,425	\$35,310	\$47,080
2	15,930	21,187	23,895	31,860	39,825	47,790	63,720
3	20,090	26,720	30,135	40,180	50,225	60,270	80,360
4	24,250	32,253	36,375	48,500	60,625	72,750	97,000
5	28,410	37,785	42,615	56,820	71,025	85,230	113,640
6	32,570	43,318	48,855	65,140	81,425	97,710	130,280
7	36,730	48,851	55,095	73,460	91,825	110,190	146,920
8	40,890	54,384	61,335	81,780	102,225	122,670	163,560

- See more at: <http://familiesusa.org/product/federal-poverty-guidelines#sthash.zxi3Fa5S.dpuf>

# Income Used to Compute Poverty Status (Money Income)

- Includes earnings, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, Social Security, Supplemental security Income, public assistance, veterans' payments, survivor benefit, pension or retirement income, interest, dividends, rents, royalties, income from estates, trusts, educational assistance, alimony, child support, assistance from outside the household.

# Income Used to Compute Poverty Status (Money Income)

- Noncash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies) **do not** count.
- Before taxes
- Excludes capital gains or losses
- If a person lives with a family, add up the income of all family members. (Non-relatives, such as housemates, do not count.)

# Who is Homeless?

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

ESEA, Title X, Part C

Same definition referenced in

- IDEA 2004
- Child Nutrition Act
- Head Start Act
- Higher Education Act

This is the definition or standard for use in VPI.

# *Defining homelessness*

An individual who lacks a *fixed, regular*, and *adequate* nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- *sharing housing* due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- living in *motels, hotels, trailer parks*, or *camping grounds* due to lack of alternative adequate housing
- living in emergency or *transitional housing*

Including children and youth :

- abandoned in hospitals
- awaiting foster care
- having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations



- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- migratory students meeting the description
- unaccompanied youth meeting the description

- How eligibility is determined by a liaison:

[http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/det\\_elig.pdf](http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf)

# Homeless or *NOT* Homeless

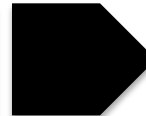
Check the box with the correct answer

**Homeless**      **NOT  
Homeless**

In a shelter



In a motel after an eviction



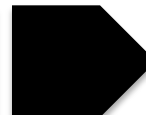
Living with grandparents to save money for a house down payment



In a motel while house is renovated



Living with aunt following a foreclosure



In an overcrowded trailer with 6 children



# *Helpful Websites*

- Project HOPE-VA –  
[www.wm.edu/hope](http://www.wm.edu/hope)
- CoC –  
<http://www.hudhre.info>
- NCHE –  
[http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc\\_preschool.php](http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_preschool.php)
- NAEHCY –  
[www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)



# Students with Special Needs or Disabilities

Preschoolers may be found eligible for Early Childhood Special Education services under one or more of these disability categories, which are defined in the federal and state regulations:

- Deaf-blind
- Emotional disability
- Hearing disability
- Learning disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairment

# Students with Special Needs or Disabilities

- Other health impairment
- Speech or language impairment
- Traumatic brain injury
- Visual impairment/blindness
- Developmental Delay

This will be the definition or standard of use for VPI.

# New VPI Data Collection Elements in SSWS Fall Verification Report Only

Each school division must provide the total number of VPI slots used in each of the following income brackets:

- At or below 130%
- 131%-200%
- 201%-350%
- 351% and above (SY 2015-2016 only)

The total number cannot be more than or less than the total number of VPI slots used.



# New VPI Data Collection Elements in SSWS Fall Verification Report Only

- Each school division must provide the total number of students served in each of the student eligibility criteria elements:
  - Income at or below 200% of poverty
  - Homelessness
  - Student's parents or guardians are school dropouts
  - Family income is less than 350% of federal poverty guidelines in the case of students with special needs or disabilities
  - Local criteria (SY 2015-2016 only)

# Local Criteria Data Collection in SSWS Fall Verification Report - 2015-2016 Only

- Parent(s) did not complete high school
- Physical abuse/neglect, family abuse, substance abuse
- Single parent household
- Foster care
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Parent incarcerated
- Military deployment
- Student raised by relatives other than parents
- Other (this will be a text box limited to 30 characters)



# Memorandum of Understanding

- **TO:** All Head Start Grantees
- **SUBJECT:** Memorandum of Understanding with Local Entity Responsible for Managing Publicly Funded Preschool Programs
- **INFORMATION:**
- In accordance with Section 642(e)(5) of the Head Start Act, Head Start agencies (grantees) are required, no later than December 12, 2008, to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the appropriate local entity responsible for managing publicly funded preschool (pre-kindergarten) programs in their service area.

# Thank you for your time and attention!

## Websites

### Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early\\_childhood/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/index.shtml)

### Early Childhood Special Education

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special\\_ed/early\\_childhood/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/early_childhood/index.shtml)

### Project HOPE

<http://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/resources/mckinneyact/index.php>

### Head Start Information on MOU

[http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/im/2008/resour\\_ime\\_018\\_101408.html](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/im/2008/resour_ime_018_101408.html)



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