

Section 7

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Strategic Plan: Goals/Objectives 1.1.1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8

Three-Year-Old Preschool Class Expansion - Revised

The Charlottesville City Schools Strategic Plan contains a strategy for expanding and improving the quality of our preschool programs. Governor Kaine has promoted an early childhood initiative as one of his priorities. We are in communication with the University of Virginia staff regarding the development of a model framework for preschool education. Research has indicated that one strategy for closing the achievement gap is high-quality early childhood education. A broad-based collaboration of partners, linking the community's higher education institutions with the early learning providers and the school division will be established to consider the expansion of early childhood education services, improve the quality of programs, increase access, enhance family literacy, and improve learning readiness for preschool children.

The Charlottesville City Schools currently has one class for children who turn three by September 30th of the school year of entry. The class is located at Clark Elementary School and is in session five days a week from 9:15 to 2:00. School buses transport the children to and from school. There are twelve children in the class with a certified teacher and a highly qualified teaching assistant. The children must live in the city of Charlottesville, qualify for free or reduced meals and be toilet trained. Selections are made based on the number of family stressors identified through the application process. The class offers a positive, nurturing environment and preparation for the Four-Year-Old program the following year. Adding one additional class for three-year-old students is recommended.

Estimated Expenditures

Staff

1 Teacher for three-year old class	65,874
1 Instructional Assistant	29,027
(Each of the cost figures includes fringe benefits.)	

Furniture for 1 classroom 15,000

Instructional materials for 1 classroom 15,000

Transportation (depending on site selection) 28,800

Total \$153, 701