

Best practice.....E3: Elevate Early Education

In 2012, E3: Elevate Early Education (E3), a statewide venture, was created by business, civic and philanthropic leaders to tenaciously pursue and challenge policy makers to make public investment in early education a priority.

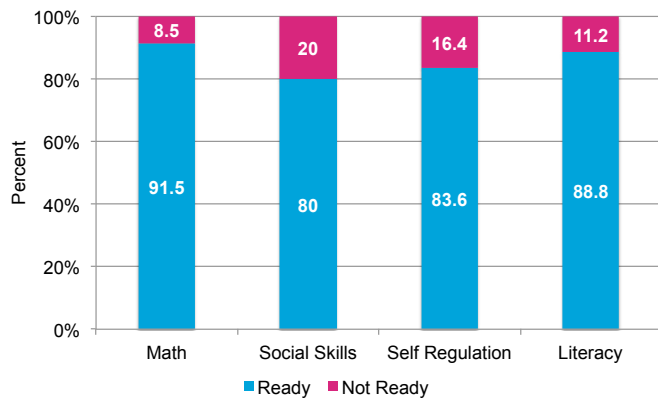
What's been missing in Virginia is a bipartisan issue-advocacy organization solely dedicated to early education. That's why E3 was created—to raise awareness and advocate for strategic and data-driven investment in early education.

Decades of research conclude that the greatest opportunity to impact a child's development is in their first five years. Yet, where the investment counts the most, our public investment is lowest. Every fall, children enter our kindergarten classrooms ready to fail. Children who enter kindergarten behind their peers rarely catch up; instead the achievement and readiness gaps widen over time. These children are more likely to fall behind grade-level expectations, be held back in school and drop out of high school.

Last fall, 34% of Virginia's children entered our kindergarten classrooms ready to fail in at least one critical learning domain.

The research is clear: investment in high quality early education programs is the best way to support improved academic outcomes in our K-12 and higher education systems. E3, in partnership with The University of Virginia Center for Advanced Study for Teaching and Learning (UVA CASTL) and philanthropists, have created a school focused on the most important elements of high quality programs that improve child outcomes for all children.

Percent of Kindergartners "Ready" or "Not Ready" by Learning Domain



The New E3 School is a demonstration model for the region and state that will prove that high quality early education results in kindergarten readiness for all children across the income spectrum. The school is a mixed-income model, which serves 104 children, ages 1-5, and is open all day, year-round.

The school's curriculum, developed by UVA CASTL, focuses on science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math, also known as "S.T.R.E.A.M." These six content areas, linked with character building, are integrated into activities and projects throughout the school day. The school's teachers are top-notch, UVA-trained early educators with specialized credentials in the field of child development and early education.

The New E3 School is a showroom of quality to serve as the catalyst to drive policy, systems change and greater public investment by showing a direct link between an infusion of quality and child outcomes. E3, in partnership with UVA CASTL, will track student outcomes through third grade. These results will prove that high quality early education can narrow the achievement and readiness gaps. The New E3 School is a platform for policy change—not only is the school advancing early education in South Hampton Roads, but across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For more information, visit <http://www.newe3school.org/about/>.