

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arlington School Board  
FROM: Early Childhood Advisory Committee  
DATE: February 27, 2024  
SUBJECT: Final Report and Recommendations

COMMITTEE CHAIR/CO- OR VICE CHAIR: Maggie Slye and Kate McKenney  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Gail Gerry, Miranda Turner, Meredith Jaekel, Ellen Vicens  
STAFF LIAISON(S): Elaine Perkins and Cameron Childs

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Background: The Early Childhood Advisory Committee works in collaboration with APS's Office of Early Childhood to ensure that students in Preschool-Grade 2 thrive. Our focus is educational equity; in particular we are interested in ensuring that Arlington's most vulnerable young students have access to APS's high-quality early childhood programs.

Recommendation: Fund PreK Curriculum Resource Adoption and 50 hrs of Curriculum-Based Professional Learning for all VPI and Early Childhood Special Education Teachers and Assistants

Challenge: Currently the VPI and Early Childhood Special Education classes use Opening the World of Learning (OWL) as our VDOE approved curriculum. *This resource has been retired from the VDOE approved curriculum list.* Programs currently using OWL as their instructional resource have been provided a "grace period" through the fall of 2025. *By fall 2025, APS preschool programs are required to adopt approved curriculum resources.* VDOE required CLASS evaluations will reflect APS's timely adoption (or lack thereof) of a comprehensive curriculum in alignment with Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS). Finally, our new approach to literacy instruction, which follows the Science of Reading, necessitates that we revisit vertical alignment across PK-12.

Solution: Allocate funds in the APS budget to purchase high-quality PreK curriculum resources and support highly effective implementation by providing at least 50 hrs of curriculum-aligned professional learning to all VPI and Early Childhood special education teachers and assistants. At least 25 hours of professional learning could be allocated to learning occurring during pre-service and APS desib00.000CF\$ pro nsPr)4

Strategic Plan Alignment:

*Student Success and Well-Being:* High-quality, engaging instructional resources ensures all students are academically challenged and supported through high-quality adult-child interactions, thereby reducing opportunity gaps.

*Engaged Workforce:* On-going, job embedded professional learning on the effective use of the new curriculum resource prepares teachers to meet the needs of all students.

Committee Vote: Number of members voting: 4, Number of votes in agreement: 4