

Mixed Delivery in FY27: ECCE Site Considerations

Mixed Delivery is a program that provides state funding to help eligible families pay for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) services.

Mixed Delivery is Virginia's place for trying out new ideas. It helps turn good ideas into real solutions for the problems families and site leaders see in the ECCE system.

Mixed Delivery helps:

- give more children access to high-quality ECCE experiences
- meet growing demand for publicly funded ECCE services at private sites
- meet the varied needs and preferences of families
- give families reliable ECCE services so they can begin or continue to work or go to school and/or training
- improve the ECCE system by
 - ▶ supporting ECCE businesses
 - ◆ e.g., paying tuition at the cost of quality (an estimate of what it actually costs to run a high-quality site)
 - ▶ developing and testing innovations
 - ◆ e.g., ways to increase ECCE teacher salaries to:
 - + stabilize ECCE site budgets
 - + increase recruitment and retention of talented teachers, and, through that
 - + increase the quality of teacher-child interactions and classrooms environments

Mixed Delivery services are:

- full-day, year-round
- community-based, usually in childcare centers or family day homes
- high-quality

Children and families are eligible for Mixed Delivery if:

- The child meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - ▶ The child's family has an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level
 - ▶ The child's family is experiencing homelessness
 - ▶ The child's parent(s) did not complete high school
 - ▶ The child has or may later be identified as having a disability
- The child and family live in Virginia
- The child is age-eligible
- The parent(s) are working, going to school and/or training, searching for a job, or unable to provide childcare themselves

ECCE sites are a good fit for Mixed Delivery if they are:

- currently serving or interested in serving families whose children would be eligible for Mixed Delivery
- able to add Mixed Delivery slots to serve eligible children
- have a VA license and meet licensing requirements and regulations
 - ▶ note: license may not be held by a faith-based organization, and curriculum, activities, and environment may not be faith-based
- willing to fully participate in requirements related to strengthening quality:
 - ▶ meet quality expectations through participation in VQB5
 - ▶ use VDOE-approved curriculum
 - ▶ assess all preschoolers using VKRP
- have the time, energy, administrative support, and willingness to use technology needed to fully partner with their Ready Region and meet data reporting requirements
- **interested in being pioneers and leaders by partnering with their Ready Region to test out strategies to strengthen their businesses and the ECCE system**
 - ▶ **open to adopting new practices to help meet program goals and requirements**
 - ▶ **committed to working toward teacher salary goals**
 - ▶ **comfortable with sharing budgets with their Ready Region and VECF to enhance business and budgeting practices**
 - ▶ **willing to collect family copayments to align with the cost of quality funding model**
 - ◆ **The tuition from the state and family copayments add up to the cost of quality tuition rate**

Please note: the graphic on the flip side represents an overview of requirements to help determine which ECCE sites are best suited to participate in Mixed Delivery; full eligibility and program requirements will be found in the Mixed Delivery Program Guidelines – FY27 (to be updated and shared spring 2026).

*Mixed Delivery pays ECCE sites at one of two levels: full-time including copays for children for whom Mixed Delivery is the only public funding source that supports their services, and wraparound for children served at an ECCE site through one of three additional funding sources (VPI, Head Start, and Early Head Start). A child enrolled in the Child Care Subsidy Program cannot also receive funding through Mixed Delivery, unless CCSP-funded services are outside of the Mixed Delivery program hours and at a different site, for example for evening, overnight, or weekend care.

Is Mixed Delivery a Good Fit for My Site in FY27?

Mixed Delivery is designed to provide high-quality ECCE services for children, increase access to ECCE services for families, and provide financial resources and support to ECCE sites, including making it possible for ECCE site leaders to significantly increase ECCE teacher salaries in order to retain talented teachers and strengthen classroom quality. Consider whether your program has the capacity, demographics, and flexibility to implement this model.

We are interested in being pioneers and leaders by partnering with our Ready Region to test strategies to strengthen our business and the ECCE system.

We are committed to working toward teacher salary goals by sharing financial information with our Ready Region and VECF and being willing to considering changes to budgeting or business practices.

We are a licensed (non-faith-based) ECCE center or family day home (FDH).

We currently serve or could serve children (at least 10 children [centers] or 50% of total enrollment [FDHs]) who would be eligible for Mixed Delivery.

We have a waitlist of eligible children and could fill empty slots within 30 days.

We can ensure full participation in VQB5 for Mixed Delivery classrooms.

We can ensure the use of a VDOE-approved, non-faith-based curriculum in Mixed Delivery classrooms.

We can ensure all 3- and 4-year-olds in Mixed Delivery will be assessed using the VKRP.

We have the time, energy, and administrative and technology support to meet all Mixed Delivery data reporting requirements.

If you checked all of the boxes your program may be a good fit for Mixed Delivery in FY27.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Thrive Birth to Five, Ready Region Central, at MixDel@thriveb5.org.

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation



1703 N. Parham Road, Suite 110
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 358-8323 • www.vecf.org

