Celebrating Continuous Improvement in Virginia: 2025-2026 VQB5 Profile Release

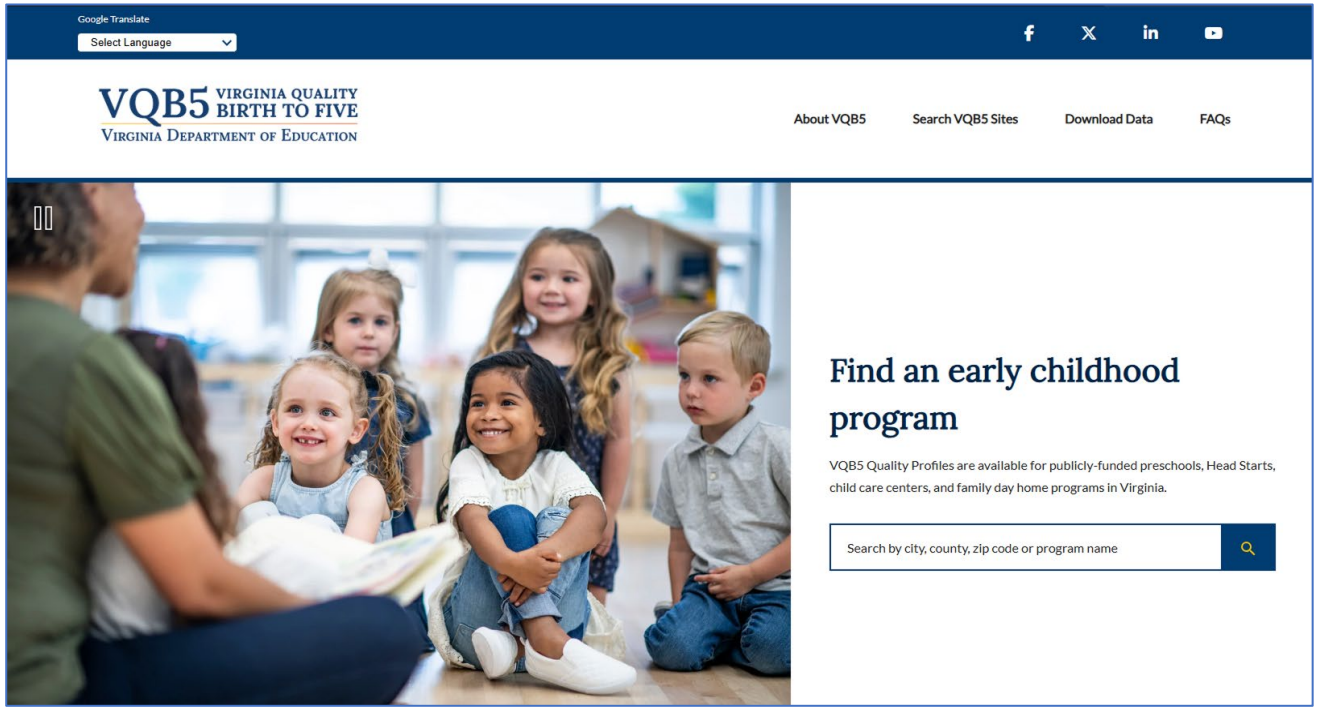
Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education

October 14, 2026

VQB5 Quality Profile Release – Fall 2026

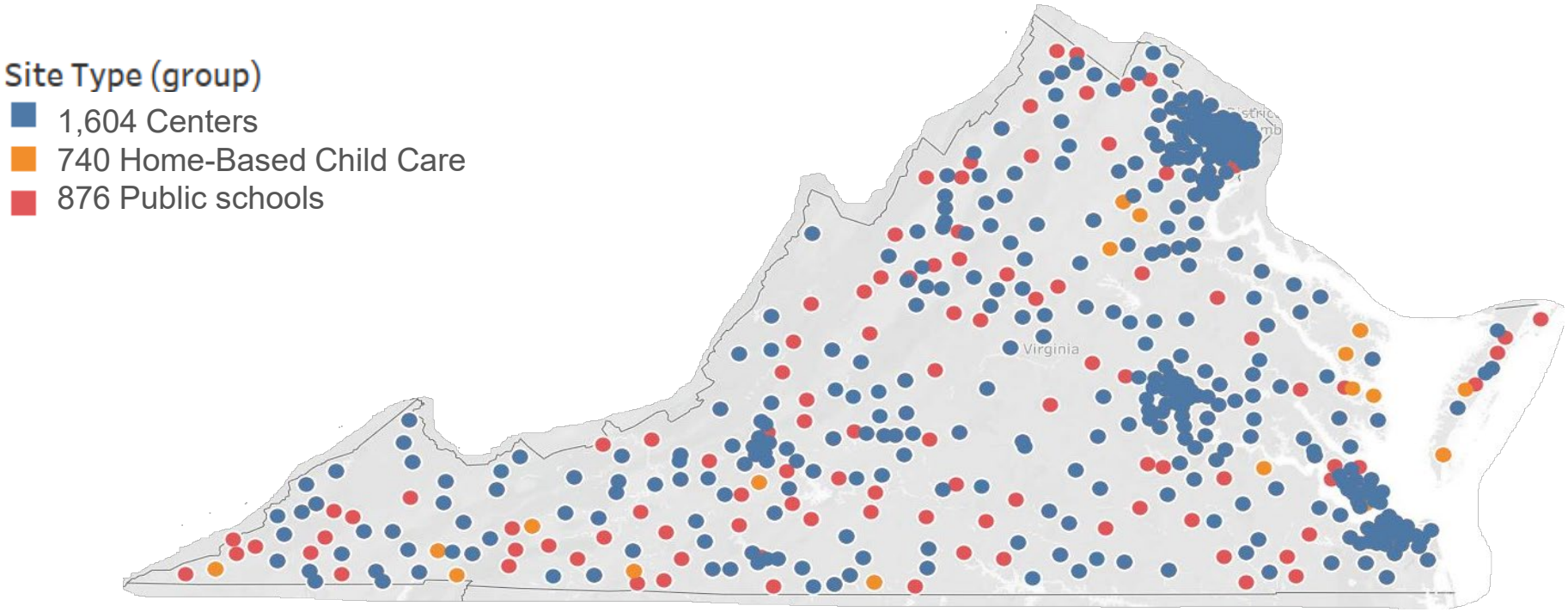
Yesterday, VDOE released 3,220 Quality Profiles based on results from the 2025-2026 year via www.EarlyChildhoodQuality.doe.virginia.gov

- This is the third year of VQB5 profiles.
- Ratings represent over 2.4 million minutes of insight into children's experiences
- VQB5 measures two nationally recognized quality measures for early learning in each classroom:
  1. Teacher-child interactions and instruction
  2. High-quality curriculum



3,220 Sites Completed Year 3 of VQB5

VQB5 includes 100% of child care centers, home-based programs, Head Start, and public schools that take public funding in Virginia.



Virginia's nine Ready Regions lead local implementation, relationship building, and VQB5 requirements at the local level.

Measuring What Matters: Children's Learning Experiences

VQB5 Ratings reflect the everyday experiences, interactions and support that children typically have in their early childhood classrooms.

Ratings are based on classroom observations and result in a score ranging from 100-800 points for each site:

Children **rarely/never** engaged in learning; limited positive or supportive interactions.

Children **typically** engaged in learning through positive, supportive interactions.

Children **continuously** engaged in learning through positive and highly supportive interactions.

2025-2026 VQB5 Results

VQB5 results show steady gains in teacher-child interactions and curriculum use across all early childhood settings.

- 99.6% of sites met or exceeded the states quality expectations (n = 3,210).
  - *Up from 98% in Year 1.*
- Statewide score average for all VQB5 sites was 594.
  - *Up from 588 in Year 1.*
- Only 10 sites received a Needs Support rating.
  - *Down from 51 Needs Support Sites in Year 1.*
- 475 sites are recognized on a VQB5 Honor Roll – with 50+ being recognized as national exemplars

Congratulations to all
2025-2026 VQB5 Sites.
Thank you for your
commitment to quality!

VQB5 Creates Measurable Benefits for Children

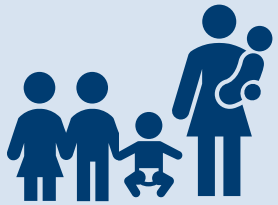
Virginia is Leading the Nation in Quality Measurement and Improvement

31,500+
Classroom Observations

11,300+
Classrooms Observed

2.4M
Minutes of *CLASS* Observations

3,210
Sites Meet or Exceed Expectations (99%)



125,000+
Children Enrolled in High Quality Classrooms

-80%
Decrease in Sites that Need Support from Year 1 to Year 3

Quality Measures Boost Child Outcomes

Curriculum Use → Higher CLASS Scores

Curriculum use is associated with higher CLASS scores.

In every region, Pre-K CLASS scores are higher in classrooms using an approved curriculum. **This difference is most notable in Instructional Support scores.**

Higher CLASS Scores → Stronger Skills in Pre-K

Higher CLASS scores are associated with stronger skills for children in Pre-K.

On average, **children who grew from fall to spring** in literacy, mathematics, social skills, and self-regulation **attended classrooms with higher CLASS scores**.

Stronger Pre-K Skills → More Ready for Kindergarten

Stronger skills at the end of Pre-K is associated being ready in Kindergarten.

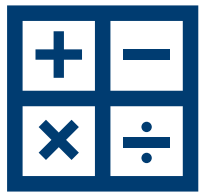
Children whose skills were strong by the end of Pre-K were more likely to enter Kindergarten ready than their peers who were still beginning or growing skills in the spring of Pre-K, across all skill areas.

More Children Are Entering Kindergarten Ready

The percentage of kindergarten students meeting the benchmark in Virginia increased 6 percentage points – from 51% in Fall 2024 to 57% in Fall 2025 - demonstrating that Virginia's continued investment in early childhood quality is producing measurable results.

+6 percentage points
Overall School Readiness

+8 percentage points
Literacy



+2 percentage points
Mathematics

Historically underserved groups made some of the **largest improvements**:

- **+7 percentage points** for Hispanic/Latino students
- **+6 percentage points** for Black students
- **+6 percentage points** for students in low-income households
- **+5 percentage points** for English language/multilingual learners
- **+4 percentage points** for students with disabilities

Source: *Fall 2025 VKRP Data – VDOE*

More Families Are Making Informed Choices

VQB5 Quality Profile website has drawn 250,000+ visits since launch in 2024.

- Easy-to-read profiles help families understand daily interactions and learning experiences.
- Honor Roll 'trophy' badges highlight site achievements
- Historical ratings information provided for the past two yeas
- Downloadable Data files for use by programs and community partners

Sites also receive certificates and digital badges to promote their ratings and honor roll achievements.

Looking Ahead: Continuing to Improve Quality and Child Outcomes

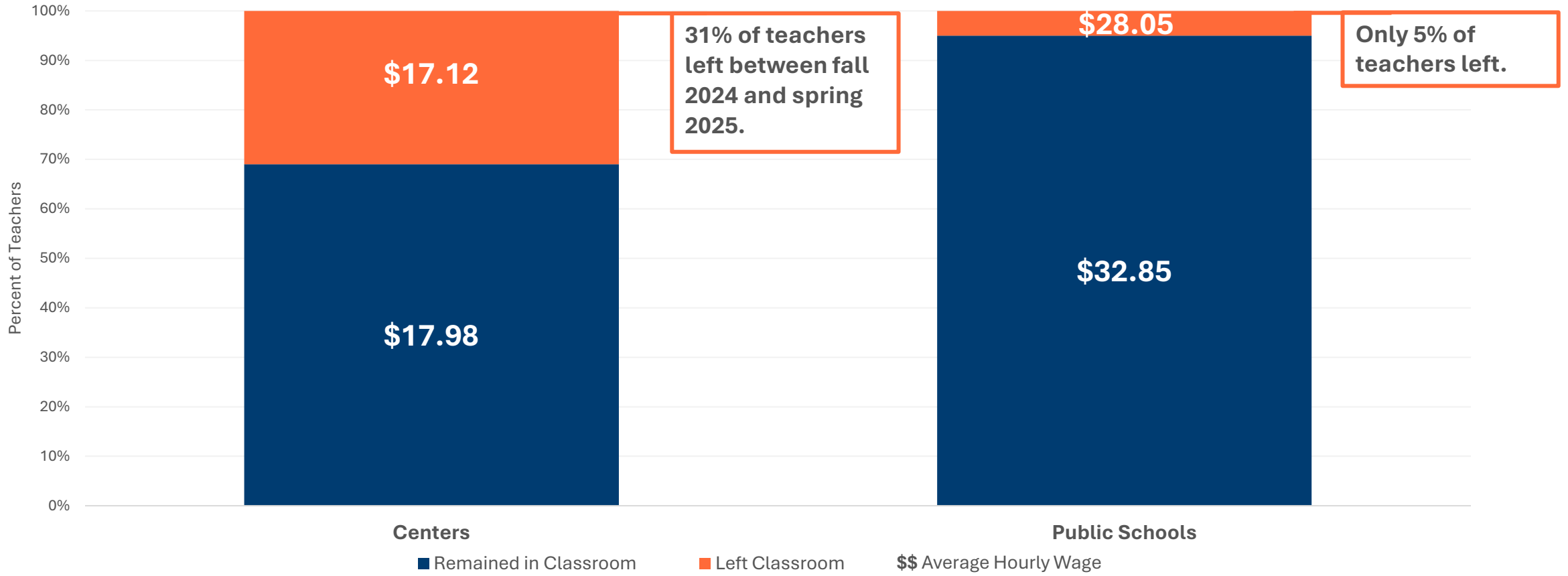
Early Childhood System Stability Impacts Quality

Challenges related to funding and affordability impact the reach of VQB5.

- Virginia's unified approach to quality is delivering measurable quality improvements for children.
- At the same time, we know that the impact of VQB5 is limited when:
  - Nearly one third of child care teachers leave within the year, resulting in a constant need to hire and train the professionals responsible for creating quality experiences.
  - 3,220 sites are engaged, but the number of participating providers has remained relatively flat for three years.
- Achieving maximum benefit will require sustained funding that aligns with the true cost of delivering quality, so the system can grow and impact more children.

Educator Turnover Affects Children and Limits Supply

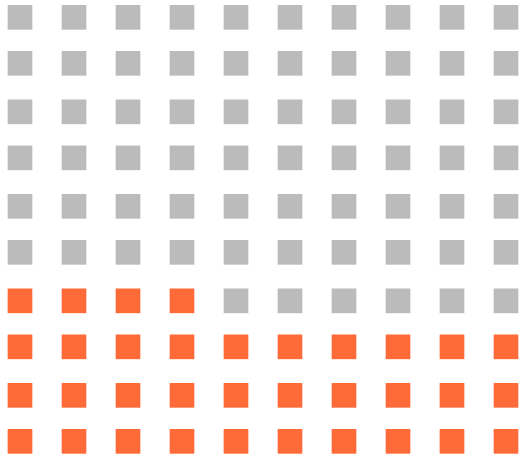
Nearly a third of child care teachers left between Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. In contrast, only 5% of school-based teachers left. Additionally, teachers who stayed performed better on VQB5.



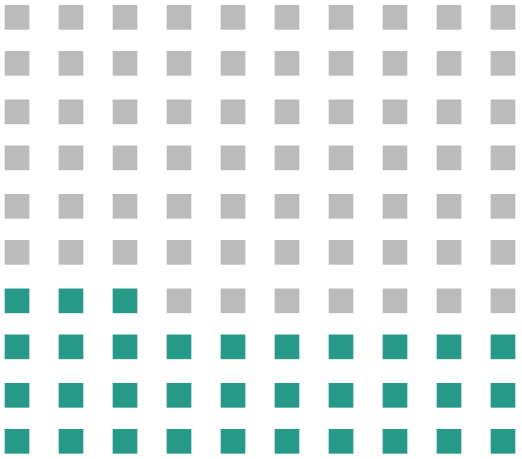
Source: *LinkB5 data, 2024-2025*

Babies are Most Impacted by Turnover

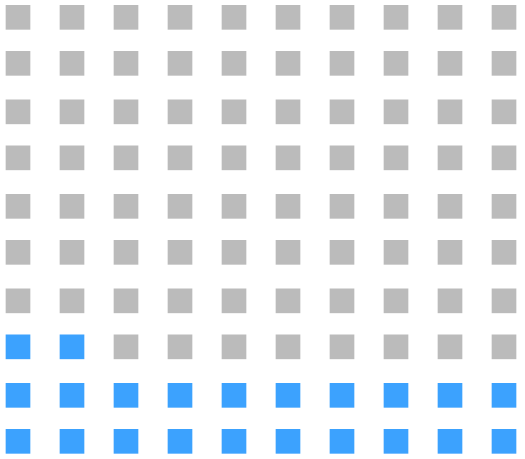
Although VQB5 sites serve over 125,000 children from birth-to-five every year, ~22% of children will have a new teacher by the spring. Infants and toddlers are most affected, with one out of every three experiencing turnover.



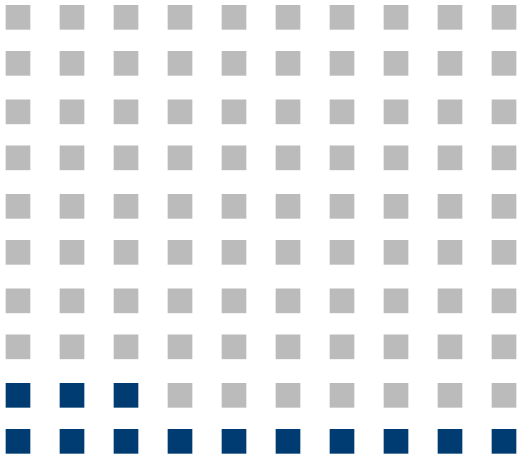
34% of all infants
in VQB5 classrooms will have a different teacher by the spring



33% of all toddlers
in VQB5 classrooms will have a different teacher by the spring



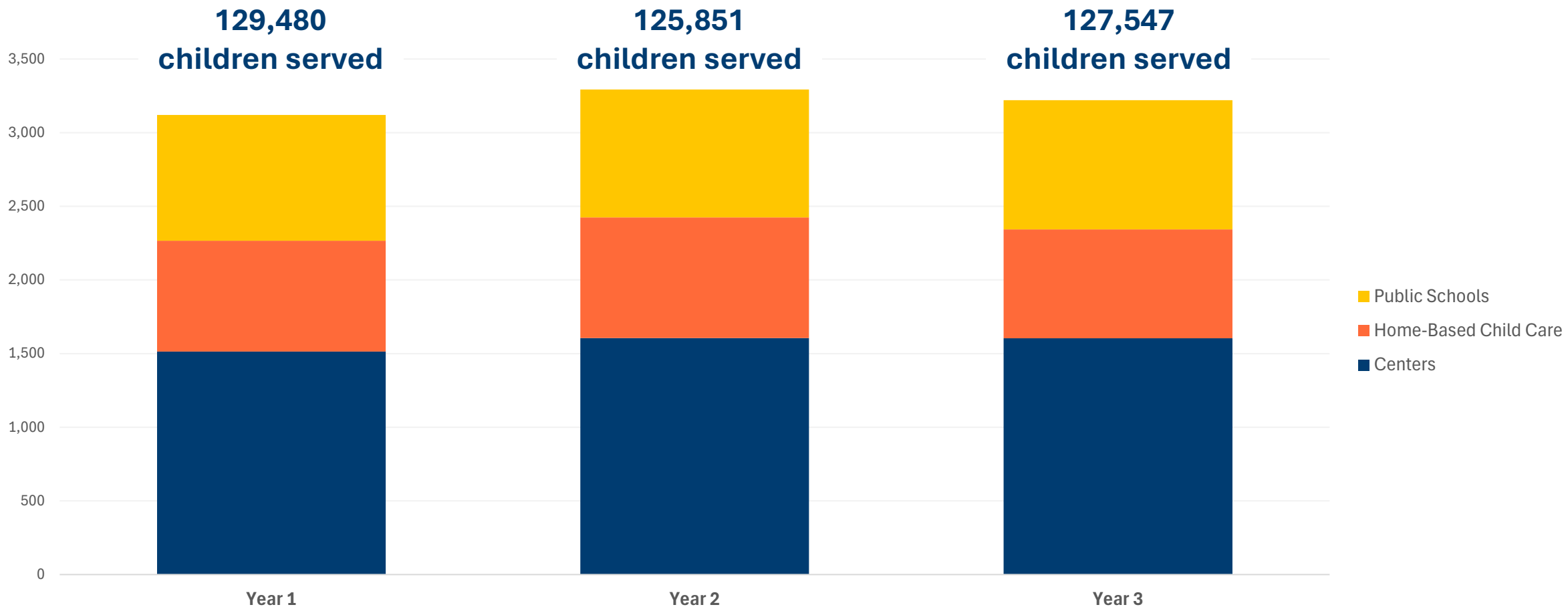
22% of all three-year-olds
in VQB5 classrooms will have a different teacher by the spring



13% of all four-year-olds
in VQB5 classrooms will have a different teacher by the spring

VQB5 Supply and Impact - Lack of Growth

The number of VQB5 participating providers has been steady for three years. As a result, the supply of slots and the number of children benefitting from VQB5 classrooms is not growing.



Appendix

Appendix A: 2025-2026 VQB5 Quality Ratings Summary by Site Type

3,220 sites received a VQB5 Quality Rating for the 2025-2026 year.

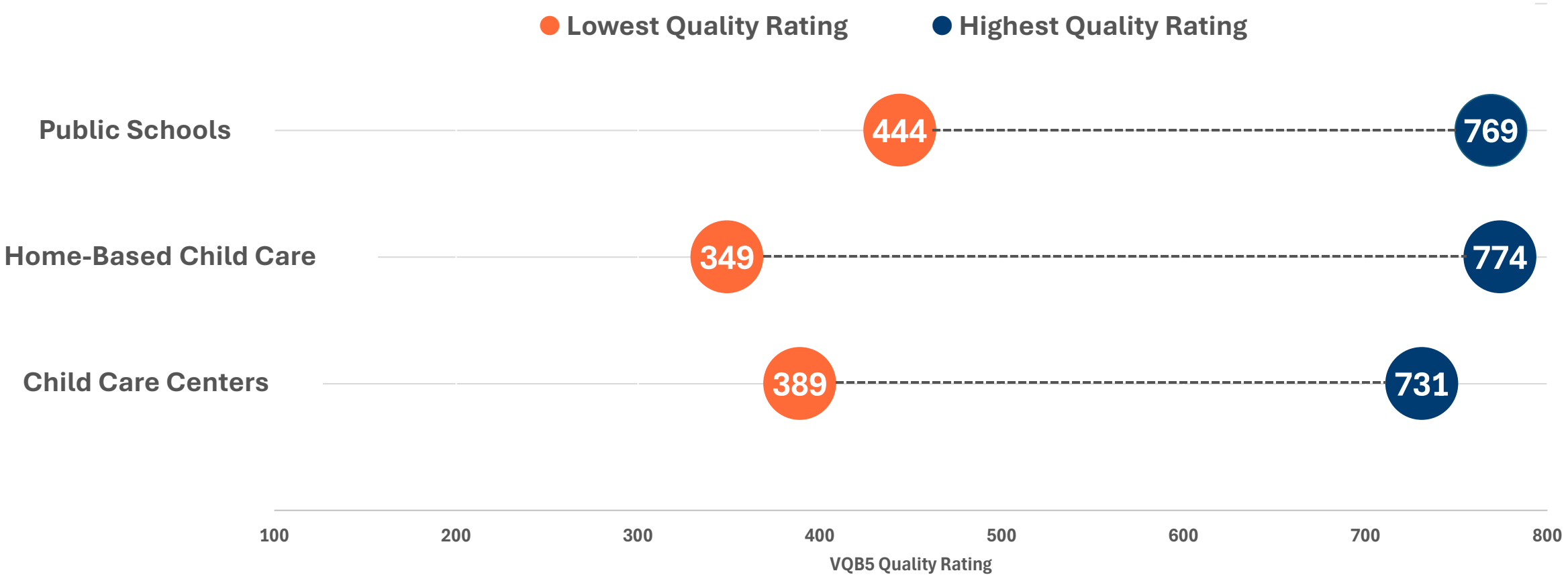
- 99.6% of sites met or exceeded the states quality expectations (n = 3,210). Up from 98% in Year 1.
- Statewide score average for all VQB5 sites was 594. Up from 588 in Year 1.
- Only 10 sites are receiving a Needs Support rating. Down from 51 Needs Support Sites in Year 1.

Site Type*	# of Sites	# Exceeds Expectations	# Meets Expectations	# Needs Support
Public Schools	876	20	856	0
Home-Based Child Care	740	24	708	8
Child Care Centers	1,604	9	1,593	2

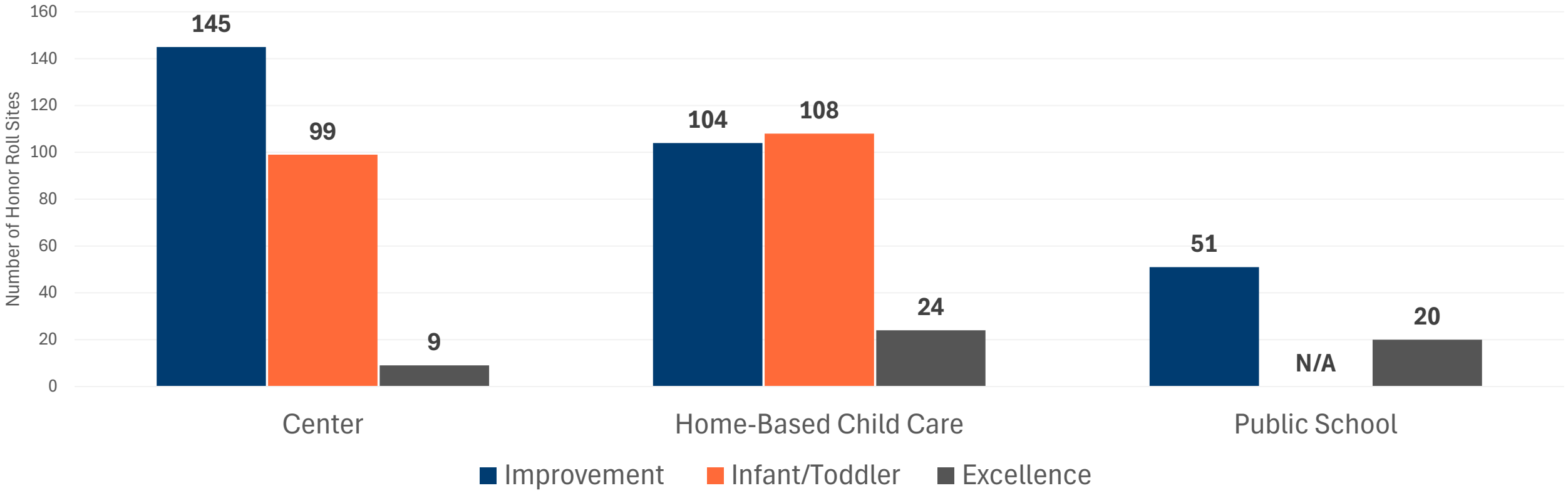
**Head Start/Early Head Start programs are included in all site types; most HS/EHS are located in centers and public schools.*

Appendix B: Variation in VQB5 Ratings 2025-2026

The range of quality rating scores, from lowest to highest score, varies across all site types, with the largest ratings variation being in Home-Based Child Care.



Appendix C: Honor Roll Summary - Fall 2026

Virginia has awarded Honor Roll designations to 475 sites across the Commonwealth based on top performance and significant improvement during the 2025-2026 year.

- Honor Roll sites represent 15% of all rated sites.
- Honor Roll sites represent all site types and all publicly-funded program types.
- Honor Roll sites are located across Virginia, with Honor Roll sites in every Ready Region.