



Amherst County Public Schools

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To: Dr. Steven Nichols, Superintendent

From: Wayne Lyle, Supervisor of Humanities and Early Childhood Education

Re: Smart Start Class at Pleasant View Elementary School

Date: April 6, 2016

With the possibility of Pleasant Elementary School closing, a parent of that community recently contacted me to inquire about placing a Smart Start Class at PVES. In my response to this parent, I explained that the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), which we refer to locally as Smart Start, is a state funded program designed to serve at-risk students who are not served by the Head Start Program. Head Start is a federally funded program; we have these classes in several of our schools, but they are not supervised by the school division. A Head Start class was housed at PVES at one time, but the program was removed due to low enrollment.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to expand our Smart Start Program because we rely on state funds. We always face the possibility of receiving less money, which would result in fewer students being served. Currently, we have a total of five classes that are housed in three of our elementary schools. If funds were available, I would support having a preschool class in all of our elementary schools. We are just not in a financial position to do this.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can provide additional information about our Smart Start Program.