# Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference

January 19, 2022

## Updates Since August Conference

#### December 2021 Demographic Estimating Conference

- Birth Data
- 4 Year Old Population

### Division of Early Learning

- 2020-21 Final Enrollment and Payment Data
- 2021-22 Enrollment and Payment Data through November 2021 as of December 17, 2021
- 2021-22 Weekly Enrollment Updates through January 10, 2022

# Updated Data from Demographic Estimating Conference

Higher Enrollment Forecast

Births forecast increases in the outer years, resulting in a higher forecast beginning in 2025-26

4-year old pop forecast increases throughout the forecast series beginning in 2021-22, resulting in lower participation rates (does not otherwise interact with forecast)

Lower Participation Rates

# Updated Data from Division of Early Learning

- FY2020-21 enrollment was 169 lower than estimated in August
  - Mostly due to a lower than estimated May/June
- FY2020-21 FTE to Enrollment Ratio was lower than estimated
  - -0.15% percentage points
- As of January 10, 2022, school year statewide enrollment was 146,132
  - Extending current enrollment to the end of the school year results in an estimate of 148,731 that is 17,944 lower than forecasted in August
  - This difference is significantly less than the 2020-21 school year appropriated vs actual enrollment differences (-39,057)

# Forecasting Methodology

- Growth in VPK enrollment is based on growth in births that align with the cohort entering VPK in the forecast year
- The forecast jumps off of 2019-20 enrollments to "skip" the effects of the pandemic
  - As the pandemic has progressed, the actual participation in VPK has moved significantly closer to the pre-pandemic forecast
  - The forecast expects a return to pre-pandemic participation as soon as the 2022-23 school year
- Beginning in 2021-22 FTE to Enrollment ratios utilize the maximum of 2018-19 and 2020-21 ratios
  - 2019-20 FTE to Enrollment ratios are excluded due to pandemic related payment policies
- Summer enrollments are held constant to Summer 2021 participation

# August Conference vs. January Conference FTE Forecasts



