Early Childhood Community and Ready Start Network

Blue Print for Success: updated February 2021

Mission

Caddo Smart Start Early Childhood Community Network is dedicated to increasing access for enrollment in programs that promote high quality educational experiences in a safe and nurturing learning environment for the whole child.

Vision

All children in publicly funded early childhood programs are provided high quality educational experiences with stimulating instruction that promotes each child's cognitive, language, social-emotional and physical development skills in order to effectively build a foundation for kindergarten readiness and a lifelong learner.

Analysis of State

Caddo Smart Start Early Childhood Community Network is comprised of 31 Public Schools, 1 Charter School, 2 Early Head Starts, 11 Head Starts and 42 Type III Child Care Centers. According to the October 1, 2020 child count, our Network currently serves 2,651 publicly funded birth to 4-year-old year children. The decline in child count from October 2019- to October 2020 relates directly to the negative impact of COVID-19 in our community geographical area.

Data below indicates the number of children in each age group during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years:

Age Group	2019-20 School Year	2020-21 School Year
Infants	72	84
1 year olds	121	180
2 year olds	205	188
3 year olds	1,034	679
4 year olds	2013	1520

Funding sources for these Early Childhood seats include LA4, Title I, 8G, EEF, NSECD, CCAP Early Head Start/Head Start and IDEA only.

As a Network, Classroom Observation Scoring System (CLASS) scores have improved from 4.56 in 2015-16 to 5.01 in 2018-19, which reflects a .45 increase. Our Network scores indicate a classroom quality rating of Proficient and an overall equity rating of High Proficient.

LDOE did not publish Network scores reflecting overall performance for the 2019-2020 school year. However, the following published 2019-2020 data reveals movement in a positive direction for high quality early childhood instruction:

- The number of Excellent sites increased from 3 to 7

- The number of High Proficient sites increased from 23 to 37

- The number of Approaching sites decreased from 11 to 8

Strengths for Caddo Smart Start include the following: 96% of the children are receiving quality instruction in an excellent, high proficient or proficient site; and CLASS Domains of Emotional Support earned a 6.02, Classroom Organization earned a 5.84 and Emotional Behavioral Support earned a 5.73. Areas of improvement include the following: access for Birth to 3-year-old seats; instructional focus on the 8 sites scoring in the Approaching Proficient range; and intentional focus on improving the Instructional Support and Engaged Support for Learning CLASS Domains in all sites.

<div align="center">Goals</div>

<u>Goal 1:</u> **Quality:** Increase the overall network program quality with 100% of all early childhood programs earning a Performance Profile score of Proficient or above as measured by the Performance Profile release from the 2021-2022 school year, and maintaining/improving all programs' Performance Profile by 2024.

> **Strategy 1:** Analyze all site level data for programs that fall at the Approaching Proficient or low Proficient Performance Profile scoring range and identify individual support needed to raise Profile scores or maintain at a minimum of Proficient or above.

Strategy 2: Develop a work plan specific to each site outlining improvement steps with input from the Lead Agency and administration from each site that will also include the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency for Child Care Centers.

Strategy 3: Provide on-going monitoring of progress in all programs with a review of local and 3rd party CLASS observations and providing assistance to ensure no program drops below their current Performance Profile level and that all programs maintain the highest level of proficiency reached.

Existing Resources: School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start site administration, Child Care owners/directors, Resource and Referral personnel; site data.

Needed Resources: Each site's developed specific work plan.

Performance Metrics: Performance Profile site scores, fall and spring CLASS observation scores for comparison in growth. Performance Profile site scores on going to 2024.

Goal 2: **Access:** To increase the number of children, ages birth to 3 years old in quality early childhood programs by 10% each year over the next three years; increasing overall access by 30% in 2024.

Strategy 1: Analyze both October and February child count data of birth to 3 year old children to determine the number of targeted seats needed in classrooms to increase the overall number of children each year by 10% or more.

Strategy 2: Target specific local, state and federal funds that would increase seat availability for children ages birth to 3 years old in programs with a Proficient or higher Performance Profile score and that are located in high gap geographical areas. Access LDOE data specifically targeted to certain zip code areas.

Strategy 3: Monitor and adjust funding requests according to demand of birth to 3 year old seats in coordination with the Northwest Louisiana Community Foundation.

Existing Resources: School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start site administration, Child Care owners/directors, Resource and Referral personnel; child count data.

Needed Resources: Future year's child count data, available funding sources to also include local fundraising efforts.

Performance Metrics: October and February child count data, Performance Profile data.

<u>**Goal 3:**</u> **Quality/Professional Development:** To improve kindergarten readiness and to improve instruction in the areas of Infant Early Language Support; Toddler Quality of Feedback and Language Modeling; and PreK Concept Development, Quality of Feedback and Language Modeling, through Professional Development in all programs to reflect a dimension score of 4.5 or above by 2024.

> **Strategy 1:** Analyze all site level data, identifying overall Performance Profile scores and Domain results to determine sites where improvements are needed and which sites are targeted for instruction and support.
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> **Strategy 2:** Assess and target programs falling into mid-level range score range of 4.5 or below to develop a work plan specific to each site outlining improvement steps, professional development opportunities and/or coaching in order to increase dimension scores of underperforming programs.
>
> **Strategy 3:** Monitor and document progress according to each site's specific work plan to provide on-going support to maintain scores of 4.5 or above.

Existing Resources: School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start site administration, Child Care owners/directors, Resource and Referral personnel; site data.

Needed Resources: Each site's developed specific work plan and funding for specific outlined professional development.

Performance Metrics: Published Performance Profiles.

Goal 4: Community Awareness/Advocacy: Intentionally recruit a minimum of 9 diverse stakeholders by April 2021 to form an Advisory Council that will advance the Network's vision to inform the public with regard to access and quality in early childhood education over the next five years.

>   **Strategy 1:** Meet with stakeholders who view early childhood education as a high priority.

>   **Strategy 2:** Create governance with an established Advisory Council.

>   **Strategy 3:** Leverage the Advisory Council's connection with the public in general and local businesses promoting the vision of the Network.

>   **Strategy 4:** Increase transparency by providing child count data and Performance Profile data to inform the community of quality and the need for access.

Existing Resources: School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start site administration, Child Care owners/directors, Resource and Referral personnel; child count and Performance Profile data.

Needed Resources: Advisory Council members.

Performance Metrics: Advisory Council meetings, minutes, child count and Performance Profile data.

Goal 5: Fundraising: To raise awareness and secure additional funding of $1,000,000.00 through fundraising efforts by the Network and Advisory Council to improve quality and access by 2024.

>   **Strategy 1:** Identify and inform local corporate and community stakeholders of the Network's goals, and needs.

>   **Strategy 2:** Leverage Advisory Council to open doors as the spokesperson for the Network.

>   **Strategy 3:** To identify local grant opportunities through the community, family and corporate foundations to fund seats in programs.

Existing Resources: School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start site administration, Child Care owners/directors, Resource and Referral personnel; child count and Performance Profile data.

Needed Resources: Grant writer, marketing materials.

Performance Metrics: New funding secured, child count and Performance Profile data.