Caddo Smart Start READY START Early Childhood Community Network Blue Print for Success 2023-2024

Mission

Caddo Smart Start READY 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 lifelong learning.

Analysis of State

Caddo Smart Start READY START Early Childhood Community Network is comprised of 106 sites which includes: 31 Public Schools, 1 Charter School, 2 Early Head Start Centers, 11 Head Start Centers, 54 Type III Child Care Centers and 7 Family Child Care Centers. Family Child Care Centers are new additions to our Network as options for early childhood opportunities.

According to the October 1, 2022 child count data, our Network currently serves 3473 publicly funded birth to 4-year-old children. Funding sources include: LA-4, Title I, EEF, 8(g), IDEA, B-3, NSECD, ECE, CCAP, EHS and HS.

Age Group	2019-2020 School Year	2020-2021 School Year	2021-2022 School Year	2022-2023 School Year
Infants	72	84	129	172
1-year-olds	121	180	216	337
2-year-olds	205	188	286	372
3-year-olds	1034	679	871	995
4-year-olds	2013	1520	1582	1597
Total	3445	2651	3084	3473

The decline in child count data from October 2019 to October 2020 directly relates to the negative impact of COVID-19 in our community geographical area. However, the above data indicates the number of children in each age group for a four-year period, with an increase in child count as identified in October 2022. The increase in the number of Infants, 1-year-olds and 2-years-olds is directly linked to the scholarships provided through the Birth to 3 and Early Childhood Education funding. Continued funding with the Community Foundation of North Louisiana and the City of Shreveport in providing local funds for scholarships has been secured for the 2023-2024 school year.

The 2021-2022 Performance Profiles, released in December 2022 indicated the following ratings, with our Network's overall Performance Profile score increased from a 5.01 to 5.20.
- Our Network's overall PreK scores are: Emotional Support: 6.02-Excellent; Classroom Organization: 5.80- High Proficient; Instructional Support: 3.80- Approaching Proficient
- Our Network's overall Toddler scores are: Emotional & Behavioral Support: 5.94- High Proficient; Engaged Support for Learning: 3.96- Approaching Proficient
- Our Network's overall Infant scores are: Responsive Caregiving: 5.38- High Proficient

Performance Level	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Excellent Sites	6	9	6
High Proficient Sites	37	49	41
Proficient Sites	42	26	41
Approaching Proficient Sites	8	2	4
Total Number of Sites	93	86	92

The data above suggests that our Network experiences variables from year to year in site Performance Level. Factors contributing to these fluid Performance Levels include: Lead Teacher turnover, closure of existing sites and the addition of new sites.

Strengths for our Network include
- 96% of our Network's programs are scoring within the Excellent, High Proficient and Proficient ranges; with 51% scoring Excellent and High Proficient
- 425 Birth to 3-year-old children are accessing early childhood programs in Type III Child Care Centers via local and state scholarship funding
- 7 Family Child Care Centers have opted into Academic Approval

Areas of Improvement include the following:
- Instructional focus on sites scoring in the Approaching Proficient range
- Instructional focus on Preschool Instructional Support
- Instructional focus on Toddler Engaged Support for Learning

2023-2024 Goals

Goal 1 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 2022-2023 year, and maintaining/improving all program's Performance Profiles.

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 the Profile scores.

Strategy 2: Develop a work plan specific to each site outlining improvement steps with input from the Lead Agency and Administration from each site.

Strategy 3: Provide on-going monitoring of progress in all programs with a review of local and 3rd party CLASS observations and aiding sites 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 administration, TYPE III Child Care Center owners/directors, Resource and Referral Personnel, site data.

Needed Resources: Each site's developed work plan.

Performance Metrics: Performance Profiles site scores, fall and spring CLASS observation scores for comparison in growth.

Goal 2 ACCESS: Increase the number of children, ages Birth to 3-years-old in quality early childhood programs by at least 10% each year for the next 3 years.

Strategy 1: Analyze both the October and February child count date to determine the number of Birth to 3-year-old children served in publicly funded seats.

Strategy 2: Target specific local, state and federal funding that would increase seat availability in programs with a Proficient or higher Performance Profile score and that are located in high gap geographical areas.

Strategy 3: Monitor and adjust funding requests according to the number of families applying for Birth to 3-year-old seats.

Existing Resources: School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start administration, TYPE III Child Care Center 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: 2021-2022 fall and spring child count data comparison.

Goal 3: QUALITY/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Improve Kindergarten readiness and to improve teacher/child interactions to reflect a 4.0 or above in the areas of Infant Early Language Support; Toddler Quality of Feedback and Language Modeling; PreK Concept Development, Quality of Feedback and Language Modeling 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.

> **Strategy 2:** Assess and target programs falling below a 4.0 domain score to develop a work plan specific to each site outlining improvement steps, professional development opportunities and/or coaching.

> **Strategy 3:** Monitor and document progress according to each site's specific work plan to provide on-going support to maintain scores at 4.0 or above.

> **Existing Resources:** School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start administration, TYPE III Child Care Center owners/directors, Resource and Referral Personnel, site data.

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

> **Performance Metrics:** Published Performance Profiles.

Goal 4: COMMUNITY AWARENESS/ADVOCACY: Advance the Network's vision by preparing and holding regularly scheduled Advisor Council meetings and including additional avenues of awareness through additional community partners over the next five years.

> **Strategy 1:** Schedule, plan, prepare and communicate Advisory Council meetings.

> **Strategy 2:** Leverage the Advisory Council's connecting with the public in general and local businesses promoting the Network's vision.

> **Strategy 3:** Add additional local partners dedicated to increasing awareness.

Existing Resources: Advisory Council members, local advertising entities.

Needed Resources: Additional local advertising entities.

Performance Metrics: Advisory Council agendas/meetings, increased early childhood enrollment during the spring enrollment campaign.

Goal 5: FUNDRAISING: Raise awareness and secure funding from local entities to increase the number of children in publicly funded seats by 2024.

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

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

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

Existing Resources: Community Foundation of North Louisiana, Advisory Council, School District administration

Needed Resources: Additional local entities committed to advance early childhood education

Performance Metrics: Secured funding.