



Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network

BLUEPRINT 2020-2021

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INTRODUCTION

The data reported on the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network provided information on twenty –one sites including: six childcare centers with 24 classrooms, ten elementary schools with 26 classrooms, 4 head start centers with 16 classrooms and one early head start center with 4 classrooms. These sites provide care and educational services to approximately 900 students from birth to 4 years old. Data from 2015 to 2019 revealed decreases in the population numbers served at the infant, twos, and threes age groups; however, an increase in those served at the one and four year old age groups. In addition, according to the October 1, 2019 Enrollment Report, we are underserving at all age levels when compared to the total kindergarten enrollment of about 900 children as verified through the Vermilion Parish School's JCampus system. Our network is providing services for about 1% to 24% of the potential student population from infants to three year olds and about 65% at the four-year-old level.

In addition, student enrollment data indicated that the need for special education services has increased within the early childhood community. In the 2016 – 2017 school year, speech and early intervention services were provided for 22 children, and in 2017 – 2018 services were provided for 56 children. For the 2018-2019 school year, the need grew to 82 children in need of speech and early intervention services. While the need has nearly quadrupled over the past 3 years, the number of service providers has remained the same creating a significant shortage of providers for our children.

The Network's CLASS Performance scores have consistently increased in each domain over the past three years. However, data revealed that within each indicator for preschool CLASS results show minimal fluctuations have taken place in Positive Climate, Teacher Sensitivity, Concept Development, Quality of Feedback, and Language Modeling. The Toddler CLASS results, as well, revealed positive gains over the course of the last three years and inconsistent scores in the Positive Climate, Regard for Child Perspectives, Behavior Guidance, Facilitation of Learning Development, Quality Feedback and Language Modeling. As a network, positive gains have been made for both preschool and toddler CLASS measures, but the results are inconsistent in upward growth within each indicator.

Lastly, staff turnover within child care centers has increased from 11% in 2018 – 2019 to approximately 35% for 2019-2020 since ancillary certification was mandated in June of 2019 for lead teachers. Many challenges exist with retaining qualified educators such as comparable pay, professional training and support. During training for child care teachers, many expressed that having a standard to be the lead teacher was a good idea to increase the quality of instruction for the students. However, it's been challenging finding a state approved teacher certification program close to home that allows them to work full time and fulfill their family responsibilities.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Network strengths include:

- The overall CLASS Performance Profile results over the past 3 years indicates positive growth for preschool and toddler observations.
- According to the 2018 – 2019 Performance Profile results, the network has 3 school sites on the state honor roll recognized for Excellent Performance with one site also recognized as a Top Gains school. Two of our childcare centers were recognized for High Proficient performance birth to 3 years old, which is growth from the previous year whereas they were only recognized for birth to two year old honor roll.
- Data reported in October 1st Child Count reports compared to kindergarten enrollment captured from the Vermilion Parish School's JCampus system show a steady increase in the number of four year olds being served by all network partners increasing from 61% to 65% over the past 3 years.

Network challenges are:

- Significant efforts are needed to increase the number of children being served by the network from birth to 3 years while continuing measures to expand four year old programs.
- Shortage of qualified speech therapist and early interventionist to serve our special education population.
- More consistent, intentional, and specific coaching, training, and modeling at the site classroom level for effective CLASS and Teaching Strategies Gold implementation.
- More consistent, intentional, and specific coaching for child care owners/directors, head start/early head start education leaders, and school based administrators focused on leadership, management, and curriculum and instruction professional development.
- Significant efforts are needed to expand community stakeholder participation with collaboration of ideas and resources for growth in all early childhood programs in Vermilion Parish.

MISSION

The Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network will create accessible opportunities for quality care and educational experiences for all of our children to become successful.

VISION

Through collaborative efforts, the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network envisions building a solid foundation of care and education provided by numerous sources for all of our children birth to five that will prepare them for life.

STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL #1:

The Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network will increase the number of birth to 3-year-old students being served by 5% at each age level within the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network during the 2020-2021 school year.

Strategy 1

The lead agency will work with two of its local childcare centers to increase enrollment for their birth to three available seats.

Existing Resources

- Partnerships with local childcare centers
- Partnership with Volunteers of America
- Potential funding through the Vermilion Parish School System competitive funding application
- Preschool Development Grant Opportunity
- Ready Start Network Grant Opportunity

Needed Resources

- At least 1 additional lead teachers with ancillary certification
- One additional co-teacher
- One Speech Therapist and One Early Interventionist to provide special education services
- Funding for expansion

Performance Metric

The outcome will be measured by comparing the student enrollment totals from the fall of 2020 with the counts from the fall of 2021 as reported in the October 1st Enrollment Reports.

GOAL #2:

The Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network will establish a Type III child care center and subsequent Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Resource and Specialized Care Center by June 2025 to increase enrollment for birth to four year old children.

Strategy 1 - Phase I

The lead agency will acquire a Type III license to provide childcare in the Maurice area of Vermilion Parish. The child care center will provide care and education for birth to three year old children. In addition, before and after care services will be offered along with homework support and enrichment classes such as music appreciation. The center will be licensed and operational by June 2022.

Strategy 2 - Phase 2

Once the Maurice child care center is established, a portion of the funding generated by its operation will be utilized to allow the lead agency to establish a resource center and a child care center especially for special needs children in Vermilion Parish by June 2025. The resource center will provide resource and referral services for families, centralized early childhood enrollment information/support, and a hub for professional development and parent engagement meetings along with access to services and opportunities provided by partnering agencies. The child care center will focus on but is not limited to providing services for birth to four year children with special needs.

Present Conditions

- High need for child care services- only two centers in the Maurice area with only one being Type III/High need for a specialized care facility
- High need for a trusted hub to meet familial needs for care, education, and other support services like a parenting center with referral services

Existing Resources

- Ready Start Network Grant Opportunity
- Partnerships with Vermilion Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development
- Partnership with Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems Impact Grant (ECCS)

Needed Resources

- Type III License
- Land/Facility/Staff

Performance Metric

The outcome will be measured by a portfolio of authentic documents and pictures cataloging the planning and establishment of the Type III child care center in Maurice, the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Resource and Specialized Care Center.

GOAL #3:

The Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network will increase CLASS network performance scores by 2% in each dimension at the infant, toddler and pre-k levels by May 2021.

Strategy 1

The lead agency will develop quality leadership through professional training to strengthen the directors, lead teachers and school-based administrator's ability to support and develop a solid foundation for childcare, curriculum and instructional fidelity, and management of human resources of their respective sites.

Strategy 2

The lead agency will purchase tier I curriculum kits for each classroom teacher at the infant, toddler, and pre-k levels to increase instructional materials access to allow for more effective professional development sessions and support.

Existing Resources

- Partnership with UL Picard's Teacher Training program
- Volunteers of America Partnership
- Local partners who are committed to investing in their sites and overall network
- Potential funding through the Vermilion Parish School System competitive funding application
- Ready Start Network Grant Opportunity

Needed Resources

- Partnership with Franklin Covey for leadership training
- Funding for professional development programs and teacher/director substitutes

Performance Metric

The outcome will be measured by comparing the CLASS dimension scores from the 2018-2019 school year to the scores from the 2019-2020 school year to determine accomplishment for toddler and pre-k levels. The outcome will be measured by comparing the fall 2019 to the spring 2020 CLASS dimension scores to determine accomplishment at the infant level.

GOAL #4:

The Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network will decrease staff turnover rates by 15% by June of 2022.

Strategy

The lead agency will establish a collaboration with the South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) to develop a state approved teacher training program to increase the number of ancillary certified child care lead teachers in Vermilion Parish.

Existing Resources

- Working relationship with local community college director
- Preschool Development Grant Opportunity- local child care center partners are two blocks from SLCC which can be a good child care incentive for parents considering going back to school in Vermilion Parish

Needed Resources

- Formal partnership with SLCC

Performance Metric

The outcome will be measured by a portfolio of the development and establishment of the teacher training program along with documentation of first graduation.

GOAL #5:

The Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network will develop a governing structure, which will include by-laws and a coalition and council of community members to serve as a support mechanism and advisory council along with the existing leadership team with expectations of being operational by June 2022.

Strategy

The lead agency will establish a coalition of community members to serve as the support and guiding body for future development of the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network. The coalition will as a whole provide ideas, financial support, and resources to enhance future growth of the early childhood programs in Vermilion Parish. The Coalition Council will adopt and uphold the by-laws that will govern all actions necessary to support program growth and sustainability. The Leadership team will initially develop

the by-laws and submit a draft to the Coalition Council. The Leadership team will work with the Council until by-laws have been established and adopted by the Council.

Existing Resources

- Leadership team comprised of early childhood leaders from local childcare centers, head start, early head start, and the local public school system
- Community members who have in the past been avid supporters of early childhood events
- Potential funding through the Vermilion Parish School System competitive funding application
- Ready Start Network Grant

Needed Resources

- Funding for staff to work on building the coalition and support other early childhood lead agency needs

Performance Metric

The outcome will be measured with the established operating coalition and council along with the creation of the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network By-laws document. The coalition members list, the council members and roles, the Leadership team, the by-laws and other relevant information will comprise the document.