Jeff Davis Parish Early Childhood Community Network Blueprint
January 2022

Introduction

The Jeff Davis Early Childhood Community Network consists of the following 11 sites: Seven public schools with 19 Pre-K classrooms, two Save the Children Head Start sites (Jennings and Elton) with a total of 11 classrooms, and two child care center Bayou Babies Academy Too of Jennings with 4 classrooms and Blooming Bullpups with 3 classrooms. All sites serve children with disabilities, according to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Services for children ages 3-5 are provided by Jeff Davis Parish Special Services staff according to each student's IEP. Early Steps provides services for infants and toddlers, from birth to 3.

A total of 431 children from birth to age five are served in this network: 305 four year olds, 94 three year olds, 10 two year olds, 13 one year olds, and 9 infants. These numbers have increased for infants and toddlers with the opening of a second childcare center.

Our network's CLASS scores for 2020-21 are Highly Proficient. All seven-school sites achieved Excellent ratings on the 2020-21 Performance Profile Rating from the state. Child care and Head Start achieved a Highly Proficient rating.

Some major strengths for our community network is our consistent high Performance Profile scores, which demonstrates our young children are receiving a high quality experience. Communication among stakeholders is encouraged and fostered through positive working relationships in our rural parish. A final strength is that every site utilizes a Tier I curriculum.

Some major challenges in our community network is to encourage more family members of 3 year old students to attend a high quality program. It is difficult in the Jennings area to project the number of 3 and 4 year olds each school year because the majority of parents do not register their children during the spring round-up. They tend to wait until August. Another challenge is serving more infants and toddlers. We currently have two Type III child care centers that each are limited to registering 33 children because of size of their building. This limits the number of birth to 3 year olds that can be served in our network to a total of 66. In December 2019, Head Start converted 16 of their seats to be able to care for 8 infants and 8 toddlers. A final challenge is keeping new teachers trained to provide a high quality program at the highly proficient or excellent rating system of CLASS.

Guiding Statements

Vision: Children in Jefferson Davis Parish ages birth through five receive essential foundational skills in a quality program to ensure that they are ready to learn upon entering Kindergarten.

Mission: The mission of the Jeff Davis Early Childhood Community Network is to increase community awareness of quality early childhood education and to provide children ages birth to five with access to high quality programs they need to be successful in school.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1 Increase the number of three-year-old children served in the Jeff Davis Parish Community Network sites by 30% by October 2023, an increase from 94 to 124 three-year-olds.

Strategies:

- Advertise through all media outlets the spring 2022 round-up dates for each site
- Give key round-up information to announce in local churches
- Create a new Ready Set Network website with unique logo with registration information for each site

Resources:

- Existing: Community partners will participate in the delivery of advertisement through handing out fliers, posting information, and encouraging the community to register their 3 year old children to a network program
- Existing: Churches make announcements of round-up information
- Needed: completion of website and marketing firm advertisement

Performance Metrics:

- Child count data as of October 1, 2023 will be used to determine if the goal is met

Goal 2 Increase by 30% the number of infants, one-year-old, and two-year-old CCAP children served by licensed quality child care centers by the October 1, 2023 child count, an increase from 32 to 42 children.

Strategies:

- Advertise through all media outlets Type III child care center information and eligibility requirements for the quality centers in our network
- Collaborate with Head Start in converting seats to Early Head Start seats
- Collaborate with current Type III childcare centers
- Use Ready Set Network grant money to create website and logo to promote early childhood in our community
- Send information flyer of available quality child care centers to families of school age children

Resources:

- Existing: Community partners will participate in the delivery of advertisement through handing out flyers
- Existing: Community partner with Head Start and child care centers
- Existing: Continued open communication with childcare centers to support the adding of additional seats
- Needed: Public schools send home flyers to parents of school age children.
- Needed: Assist with expansion of current childcare centers to be able to serve more children

Performance Metrics:

- Child count data as of October 1, 2023 will be used to determine if the goal is met

Goal 3 By May 2023, the quality of sites in the network will improve by increasing the number of sites rated Highly Proficient or above to 100%.

Strategies:

- Professional development on CLASS to target dimensions in need of improvement
- Secure materials and resources needed through grant funds to assist the teachers in promoting high quality interactions and experiences for children.
- Collaborate with Head Start and Childcare centers to ensure classrooms and teachers receive the training and monitoring needed to ensure high quality experiences in the classroom with children.
- Share exemplar videos demonstrating ways teachers incorporate high quality interactions throughout the day

Resources:

- Existing: Funds to purchase materials that encourage higher order thinking skills
- Existing: CLASS coach partially funded by RSN grant available for trainings or informal feedback
- Needed: Stipends to provide professional development to staff before school begins and/or monthly after hours to share exemplar videos and targeted dimension professional development.
- Needed: Analyze data for all sites to target dimensions and make a plan to share during professional development days.

Performance Metrics:

- 2023 Network Performance Profile Ratings