

Iberia Parish Early Childhood Community Network Blueprint

Introduction

The Iberia Parish Early Childhood Community Network is committed to providing quality early childhood educational experiences for children birth to school age in Iberia Parish. Our network consists of educators from child care centers, Early Head Start/Head Start Centers, Iberia Parish Public PreK sites, supporting partners, and a diverse group of community organizations. As of the October 2020 child count, the network serves 676 children in 96 classrooms across all providers. There are three Head Start Centers with 25 classrooms serving 151 children from birth to age four. There are also eight child care centers with 38 classrooms serving 174 children from birth to age four and fifteen public schools with 33 PreK classrooms serving 351 students ages three and four. Enrollment has fluctuated in the past five years due to the Early Head Start and Head Start sites closing and reopening and families moving out of Iberia Parish. Additionally, enrollment this year has been greatly impacted by family concerns around COVID-19.

During the 2019 – 2020 school year, 75% of the estimated eligible four-year olds and an average of 23% of the estimated eligible children ages birth to three were served in Early Head Start/Head Start Centers, child care centers, and PreK sites. Currently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Iberia Parish public school pre-kindergarten classrooms, which include two virtual classrooms are not at capacity. Many of the network's child care centers also have open spots available. The Early Head Start and Head Start centers have some students on waiting lists as well as open spots.

The network is very proud of the fact that the quality of instruction in all classrooms has increased over the last few years. Currently the network has a Performance Profile Score of 5.26 out of 7. Due to COVID 19, the 2018-2019 score carried over for 2019-2020. All three Early Head Start/Head Start Centers and four of the eight child care centers are rated as Proficient. The other four of the eight child care centers are rated as High Proficient. The number of public PreK sites in each rating category is as follows: Proficient – 1, High Proficient – 10, and Excellent – 4. In an effort to support continual growth, the network provides professional development and coaching opportunities for all early childhood staff. These opportunities have encouraged high quality interactions resulting in the network's overall CLASS® score increasing over the past three years.

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Vision → “Preparing our youngest learners today for success tomorrow!”

Mission → To care for and educate children and families by providing nurturing, high quality, developmentally appropriate early learning experiences to children ages birth to 5.

Goal 1: By School Year 2024-2025, the Iberia Parish Early Childhood Community Network will increase overall CLASS® scores in the areas of *Instructional Support* (Pre-K) and *Engaged Support for Learning* (toddler) by 1 point (0.2 points per year).

Strategy 1: Bi-annually assess instruction and teacher-student interaction utilizing the CLASS® instrument to determine areas of strength and weakness.

Strategy 2: Provide ongoing professional development through online and face to face training along with coaching and feedback for teachers and teaching assistants.

Resources

- myTeachstone Online Professional Development Subscriptions
- Resource & Referral Agency
- CLASS® trainers
- IPSD Pre-K Department
- Head Start/Early Head Start Education Managers and Coaches

Performance Metrics: CLASS® Scores, Performance Profile Data

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Goal 2: By School Year 2024-2025, the Iberia Parish Early Childhood Community Network will involve more community partners in order to increase community awareness of early childhood programming in Iberia Parish.

Strategy 1: Distribute informational materials for each campaign event throughout the year to a more diverse population including homeless shelters, apartment complex manager's offices, churches, etc. and inform them about early childhood opportunities available to their employees or constituents.

Strategy 2: Invite new members such as the Chamber of Commerce, housing authority, churches, mayor's office, sheriff's office, etc. who are not current partners to join the Community Network and encourage collaborative partnerships.

Resources

- Pamphlets, Brochures, Fliers, Informational Guides
- Social Media and Radio Spots
- Network Mapping Tool
- Recruiting more partners through formal and informal invitations

Performance Metrics: Collaborative Event Documentation, Child Count

Goal 3: By School Year 2024-2025, the Iberia Parish Early Childhood Community Network will increase the percentage of eligible children ages birth to four years of age served by 10% (2% per year).

Strategy 1: Utilize a coordinated online application system and enhance the Early Childhood Community Network webpage to improve family and community access to early childhood programs and resources.

Strategy 2: Apply for Bto3 seats – Diverse Delivery Model

Resources

- Online Application System
- Early Childhood Community Network website
- Coordinated Funding Request
- Coordinated Enrollment Plan

Performance Metrics: Child Count