

# **Jeff Davis Parish Early Childhood Community Network Blueprint**

## **January 2021**

### **Introduction**

The Jeff Davis Early Childhood Community Network consists of the following 11 sites: Seven public schools with 20 Pre-K classrooms, two Save the Children Head Start sites (Jennings and Elton) with a total of nine classrooms, and two child care center Brite Beginnings of Jennings with 4 classrooms and Blooming Bullpups with 4 classrooms (temporarily closed due to damage from Hurricane).

A total of 428 children from birth to age five are served in this network: 319 four year olds, 80 three year olds, 16 two year olds, 7 one year olds, and 6 infants. This is a slight decline in all age groups except for two year olds due to COVID 19 and two hurricanes.

Our network's CLASS scores for 2019-20 are Highly Proficient. All seven-school sites achieved Excellent ratings on the 2019-20 Performance Profile Rating from the state. Child care achieved a Highly Proficient rating and Head Start achieved a 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 February round-up. They tend to wait until August. Another challenge is having one child care center that can only hold 33 infant to 3 year old children due to the size of the building. This limits the number of birth to 3 year olds that can be served in our network. A new childcare center that can enroll up to 30 children, opened in July 2020, but is currently closed due to damage from Hurricane Delta. 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 age five receive essential foundational skills in a quality program to be ready to learn when they enter 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 2022, an increase from 99 to 129 three-year-olds.

## Strategies:

- Advertise through all media outlets the February 2021 round-up dates for each site
- Encourage parent involvement of timely registration through incentives
- Give key round-up information to announce in local churches

## 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: Funding from the grant will provide incentives for parents of three year old eligible children to register in a timely manner
- Needed: Churches willing to make announcements of round-up information is a new resource

## Performance Metrics:

- Child count data as of October 1, 2022 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, 2021 child count, an increase from 19 to 25 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
- Partner with new child care center to be included in network resources
- Use Covid-19 grant money to promote Type III child care centers
- 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 center
- Needed: Continued open communication with new childcare center to support the opening of an additional quality center.
- Needed: Public schools send home flyers to parents of school age children.

## Performance Metrics:

- Child count data as of October 1, 2022 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 coaches from Head Start to ensure new classrooms and new 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:**

- Needed: Analyze data for all sites to target dimensions and make a plan to share during professional development days.
- Needed: Funds to purchase materials that encourage higher order thinking skills
- Needed: Set schedule to meet with existing coaches and search for funds to hire additional coaches
- 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.

**Performance Metrics:**

- 2023 Network Performance Profile Ratings