RED RIVER

Early Childhood Blueprint

01/03/2023

Introduction

The Red River Parish Early Childhood Community Network is a very small rural early childhood network located in Northwest Louisiana. The Red River Parish Community Network (RRPECCN) currently consists of four PreK-4 classrooms, three Pre-K LA4 classrooms and one Pre-K Title I classroom. Red River Parish Community Network is currently serving all four year old students who register for public Pre-K. In July 2019, Red River Parish School System became the grantee of Head Start. This network consists of five Pre-K3 Head Start classrooms. All nine of the classes Pre-K4 and Pre-K3 classrooms are located at the one public elementary school site (Red River Elementary School). Save The Children (STC) Early Head Start opened in March 2020 and is also a part of the Red River Parish Community Network. STC Early Head Start building is located on the campus of Red River Parish Academic Academy. Early Head Start can serve up to eight one year old and eight two year old children. Red River Head Start does not currently have a wait list since there are still seats available to all three year olds. STC Early Head Start does currently have a wait list.   There are five on the wait list for both the one year old and the two year old classrooms. Additionally, Red River does not have any childcare centers that serve infants or toddlers.

Analysis of Network's Current State

Currently, Red River Prek-4 has 80 students enrolled; Red River Head Start has 70 students enrolled (95 dual enrolled); and STC Early Head Start has 16 children enrolled. In total, 166 children, ages one to five are being served through public funds in the community. The program usage of Tier I curriculum has increased from 80% to 100% since 2018. STC Early Head Start utilizes the Creative Curriculum. In 2021-2022 School Year, Red River Head Start changed from the OWL Curriculum to the Creative Curriculum. In 2022-2023 School Year, Red River PreK-4 changed to the Frog Street Curriculum with full implementation. The Network has made growth on the district performance profiles over the last years. The one childcare center that was in the network has closed, but received a Birth-to-Three Honor Roll for the year 2018-2019. The Childcare Center increased from 4.96% to 5.30% from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019. The prior grantee Pine Belt Head Start declined from 5.18% in 2017-2018 to 4.69% in 2018-2019. The Red River Pre-K increased from 5.70% in 2017-2018 to 5.72% in 2018-2019. The Overall Score in 2018-2019 for the school site was 5.37% and the Performance Profile rating was High Proficient. In 2019-2020, the school site increased to 5.62%, but in 2021-2022, declined by 0.2% to 5.60%. The Overall Score for the school site (PreK4 and PreK3) was 5.60% and the Performance Profile rating is High Proficient. The Overall Score for STC Early Head Start is 4.9% and the Performance Profile rating is Proficient. According to The Department of Education Draft 2022 Site Performance Profiles for Red River the Overall Score for Red River PreK4 and PreK3 was 5.57% with a Performance Rating for Overall as High Proficient. STC Red River Early Head Start overall Score is 5.73% with a Performance Rating for Overall is High Proficient.

Guiding Statements

Vision: The vision of the Red River Parish Early Childhood Community Network is to Educate, Evolve and Excel in preparing children for kindergarten and for life.

Mission: The mission of the Red River Parish Early Childhood Community Network is to promote school readiness by providing our children with educating experiences and evolving programs while exceling daily.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Increase community awareness of early childcare in Red River Parish to increase funding and resources.

- Community network website
- Utilize social media and local newspaper
- Coordinated enrollment events throughout the year

Resources:

- Existing: Annual coordinated enrollment event held in April at Red River Elementary School. Parents can enroll student throughout the school year.
- Needed: Community network website updated frequently with events throughout the year.

Performance Metrics:

Track center and school site monthly enrollment to see if social media and recruitment events are attracting more children.

Goal 2: Increase three year old enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year by 2%.

- Work with families to help them understand the importance of early learning.
- Contact families of school age children and discuss the benefits of in person learning.
- Provide educational resources to families of three year olds who are not in school.

Resources:

- Existing: Red River School Board is the Head Start grantee.
  Licensing at Head Start Center.
  Assessment Level 3 Stars
- Needed: A Childcare Center to open in Red River
  Licensing requirements to open
  Funding to pay for a certified teachers, paraprofessionals, classroom materials, and professional development for the teacher and staff.

Performance Metrics:

Child Count data should show increase in students who are served in the additional seats.

Goal 3: By year 2025-2026, increase the number of birth-to 3-year olds served by 5%.

- Send informational campaign flyers to all area churches.
- Contact Early Head Start to assess who has the capacity to serve more children.
- Apply for all local, state, and federal funding opportunities available to the network.
- Partnership with daycare centers when available for more seat availability.

Resources:

- Existing: We are community partners with STC Early Head Start.
  Coordinated enrollment flyers
  Coordinated enrollment year around
- Needed: Funding for postage and mileage.
  Person to open a daycare center
  Seats to serve more children when daycare center becomes available.

Performance Metrics:

Child Care data should show increase in students served in the additional seats.