

Early Learner Initiatives

Update to the Board

February 24, 2020

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Peggy Ondera, Director of Early Learner Initiatives

Presentation Outcomes

- Share the current status of Early Learner programs
- Present the proposal to evaluate Early Learner programming in 2020-2021

Essential Question

Given that research documents the importance of early learning education to future student success, what organizational structures and policies would best prepare U-46 early learners to be successful in school and in life?

State Vision for Early Childhood

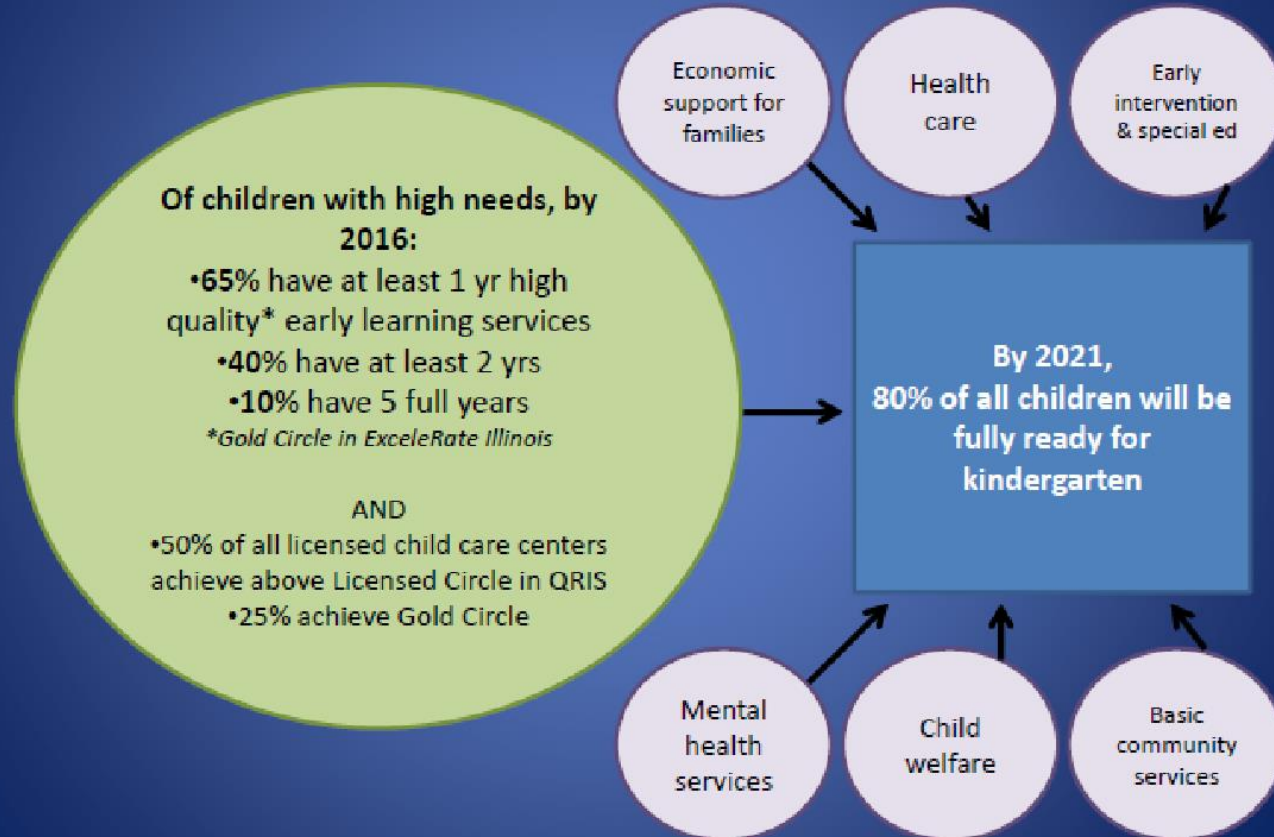
Every child healthy, safe, ready to succeed, and eager to learn, with a focus on closing the gap for vulnerable families.



Illinois
State Board of
Education



Illinois Early Learning Priorities



U-46 Goal

Preparing every child to be successful in Kindergarten



Help Me Get Ready For Kindergarten!
It starts at birth.



¡Prepárame para el kinder!
¡Empieza al nacer!



U-46 Programs



Parents As Teachers (PAT)

- Birth - 3 Home Visiting program funded by state Prevention Initiative Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG)
- Grant award of \$855,000 per year
- Funded to serve 150 children
- Located at the Early Education Station

U-46 Programs

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

- Staff:
 - 8 full time parent educators
 - 1 part time parent educator
 - 1 secretary
 - 1 supervisor
- Weekly or bi-monthly visits emphasizing child development, parent-child interactions, and parenting support
- Blue Ribbon Affiliate awarded 2020



U-46 Programs

Half Day Preschool

- Funded by state Preschool For All (PFA) Early Childhood Block Grant, federal IDEA grant and district funds
- State grant award of \$4,288,000 per year
- Classroom continuum of services for eligible 3 and 4 year olds

U-46 Programs

Half Day Preschool

Site locations

Hilltop (1)

Huff (2)

Illinois Park (20)

Independence (14)

Liberty (1)

Lincoln (2)

Ontarioville (2)

Sycamore Trails (3)



U-46 Programs

Preschool Expansion Grant



- Full day program for eligible 4 year olds
- 2 way transportation provided
- 10 classrooms, 2 sites
- Family engagement emphasis, 4 parent community liaisons
- State grant award of \$2,396,000 per year

U-46 Programs

Screening and Assessment

- 1,000 developmental screenings conducted per year to determine eligibility for programming or the need for further evaluation
- 600-700 Multi-Disciplinary Conferences to determine eligibility for Specialized Student Services
- 30 three-year-old children transitioning from Early Intervention services per month

U-46 Programs

Full Day Kindergarten

- Offered at all elementary schools
- Play-based learning model
- U46Engage
- Parent Promise



U-46 Programs

Give Me Five! Community Liaison

- Provide community outreach

Share the Give Me Five! message with area childcare and community organizations

Provide staff development to childcare workers

Help me get ready for kindergarten!

It starts at birth.

How can you help?

Talk

Tell me your stories; listen to mine.
Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
Talk about things we are doing.
Teach me new words.
Ask me 'how' and 'why' questions.

Play

Build with me.
Pretend with me.
Make time for me to play with other kids.
Be silly with me.
Teach me the rules.

Read

Read to me; listen to me "read" to you.
Point out meaningful letters in my world:
J is for Jack, D is for Donut.
Point out the first letter in words and the sound it makes.

Do

Take me to the library.
Explore our community with me.
Let me touch, taste and smell new things.
Play games with me.

Write

Use playdough with me.
Draw pictures with me.
Show me how to make letters.
Write down what I say.
Make lists with me.

Benchmarks for Kindergarten

Talks in complete sentences to describe an experience with details

Follows rules and routines in a group setting with some adult reminders

Names 40 upper or lower-case letters

Counts up to 10 objects

Draws pictures and/or makes letter-like shapes to convey a message



For a free developmental screening call:
(847) 888-5000
x6094

www.u-46.org/givemefive
Facebook.com/u46givemefive
Twitter.com/u46givemefive

Community Collaborations



ACE – Alignment Collaborative for Education

EPEL – Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

GBPL – Gail Borden Public Library



Outreach Projects with Collaboration Partners



- Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar
- Language in the Laundromat
- While You Wait Book Baskets
- While You Wait Flip Books
- Summer Reading in the Parks
- Fit for Kids in Festival Park



Proposal to Evaluate U-46 Early Learner Program

Aligns to the Chief Executive Officer's goals

To be conducted by the Kristie Kauerz and the National P-3 Center at the University of Colorado Denver

Timeline: March 2020 through May 2021

Purpose of the Project

- Create an audit tool to understand the current status of district-level supports for early learning
- Conduct an inventory of district-managed early learning efforts
- Produce findings and recommendations that can strengthen early learning efforts

Project Deliverables

Phase 1

- Design a district-level audit tool using the *Framework for Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating P-3 Approaches*
- Revise tool based on feedback from superintendents, district leadership, and UIC

Project Deliverables

Phase 2

- Utilize the audit tool during at least one site visit with district cabinet members, administrators, and other stakeholders
- Review relevant district documents
- Produce an 8-10 summary report of strengths, inconsistencies, and potential edges of growth for the early learners program

Cost

The total cost, not to exceed \$50,000, will be shared equally between U-46 and the National P-3 Center.

U-46 cost not to exceed \$24,999