

GOAL 1: Expand Comprehensive Screening and Follow-Up for Young Children

- Introduced new supports for developmental screening in Delaware Stars, training more than 1,100 early educators who have screened nearly 2,000 children for developmental delays using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and provide linkages to needed services.
- Grew number of primary health care providers using the PEDS developmental screening tool, more than 28,000 PEDS screens have been completed. Piloting newly created PEDS toolkit.
- Ten licensed early childhood mental health consultants are available to 100% of Delaware Stars programs statewide, providing more than 1,500 child consultations and training nearly 1,000 early educators to support staff who work with children with challenging behaviors and promoting young child social and emotional well-being.

GOAL 2: Expand Number of Stars Programs and High Needs Children in Stars

- Launched 2014 Stars Enhancements, designed to elevate quality for Star 4 and 5 programs, with curriculum, child assessment and developmental screening and referral – all core components for high quality programs, based on research.
- Created an array of new financial incentives for Delaware Stars programs, effective in attracting more early learning programs to join the quality rating system used by families as a guide to finding quality early learning programs for young children.
- Increased the number of quality programs in Delaware Stars from 134 to 455, including 74% of early learning centers and 22% of family based childhood programs. 55% of Stars programs are in the top tiers of quality, exceeding the Year Three target of 54%. The percentage of children with high needs served in Stars top quality tiers is 49% (7,355) [8/2014]
- Distributed Compensation, Retention and Education (CORE) awards totaling \$4.6M to 1,630 individuals working in Stars programs who have improved their education and credentials, staying on the job to raise the standard of care for young children in Delaware Stars.
- Engaged nearly 200+ early educators in the Early Learning Leadership Initiative (ELLI) and launched new, free on-line professional development series.

GOAL 3: Build Connections Between Early Learning and K-12 Schools

- Completed statewide phase-in of a kindergarten-entry assessment, the Delaware Early Learner Survey, improving information available to kindergarten teachers, informing individualized instruction and, over time, guiding work to enhance state policy and practice. In 2014, 80% of kindergarten teachers used the tool with 8,500 children, full scale implementation on target for all kindergarten classrooms and children in 2015.
- Established public-private partnership with 19 site-based Delaware Readiness Teams with broad community participation in high-needs communities to improve linkages between early learning (birth to five) and K-3 systems to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- Held a second state-level conference for all kindergarten teachers, administrators and support staff, developing a deeper understanding of how the Delaware Early Learner Survey (DE ELS) can be used to inform individualized instruction for children and sharing successes to date.
- Implemented a dual enrollment strategy to advance early childhood workforce readiness and educational attainment with free online preparation for entry exam to increase success rate for students entering college programs in early childhood.

GOAL 4: Sustain a Thriving Statewide Early Learning System

- Established the monthly Delaware Early Childhood E-News with a subscriber base of more than 6,000 and growing.
- Created a website for families with young children—www.greatstartsdelaware.com—to increase awareness of the importance of early learning for children birth to age 5 and promote the use of Delaware Stars as a guide to finding quality early childhood programs, with new social media supports and participation of more than 12,500 individuals, growing at the rate of 120 new visitors per week.
- Launch by the Delaware Early Childhood Council of a new Early Childhood Strategic Plan with establishment of four new standing committees to address the four Early Learning Challenge goals, providing top level advocacy and leadership for early learning in Delaware.

“The real question is how to use the available funds wisely. The best evidence supports the policy prescription: Invest in the Very Young.”

- James J. Heckman, PhD

Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, 2000



DELAWARE EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE Partners

GOAL 1: Expand Comprehensive Screening and Follow-Up for Young Children

Brookes Publishing Co.- Ages & Stages Questionnaire/ASQ
Child Development Watch
Child Find
Christiana Health Care Services
Delaware Academy of Medicine
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Delaware Children's Department, Divisions of Family Services and Prevention and Behavioral Health Services
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Divisions of Public Health and Management Services
Delaware Early Childhood Council, Committee on A Healthy Start for All Children

Help Me Grow 211
La Red Health Center
Nemours Health and Prevention Services
Participating Delaware Stars Programs using ASQ screen
Participating Health Providers using PEDS screen
Participating parents/families of young children screened
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Social Ventures Partners Legacy Fund
United Way of Delaware, Inc.
University of Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

GOAL 2: Expand Number of Stars Programs and High Needs Children in Stars

Child Assessment Task Force
Children & Families First, Inc.
CORE Compensation, Education and Retention Awards Advisory Committee
Delaware Department of Education
Delaware Association for Education of Young Children (DAEYC)
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Social Services
Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Division of Family Services and the Office of Child Care Licensing
Delaware Early Childhood Council, Committee on High Quality Early Childhood Programs and Professionals
Delaware Head Start Association
Delaware Stars Evaluation Advisory Committee
Early Childhood Policy Research
Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore
Goeins-Williams Associates, Inc.
Higher Education Partnership Workgroup

Infrastructure Grant Advisory Committee
Kim Means, Child Care Systems Specialist, Office of Child Care, U.S Department of Health and Human Services
National Louis University, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership
Nemours Health and Prevention Service
Opportunities Exchange
Participating Families and Programs
RAND, Inc.
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Teach for America, Delaware
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Advisory Committee
Kathy Thornburg, Ph.D Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance Specialist
United Way of Delaware, Inc.
University of Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood, Delaware Stars Program and Delaware Stars Task Force
Jamie Walco, ASQ Technical Assistant

GOAL 3: Build Connections Between Early Learning and K-12 Schools

Charter Schools Newark
Child Trends, Inc.
Delaware Department of Education, Consumer Sciences Services and Skilled and Technical Services
Delaware Early Childhood Center
Delaware Early Childhood Council, Committee on an Aligned and Effective Early Learning System, Birth through Third Grade
Delaware Early Learner Survey Advisory Committee
Delaware Readiness Teams (DEL TEAMS)
Delaware State University
Delaware State Education Association
Delaware Technical and Community College
Delmarva Power
DEL TEAMS Advisory Committee
Kindergarten teachers, administrators and support staff
Lakeshore Learning
Mid-Atlantic Regional Education Lab at ICF

Nemours Health and Prevention Services
New Castle County Vocational Technical School
Participating Public and Charter Schools
PNC Bank
Polytech High School
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Springfield College, Wilmington Campus
Sussex Vocational and Technical High School
Teaching Strategies, Inc.
Tech Prep Delaware
United Way of Delaware, Inc.
University of Delaware, Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research and Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Center
Widener University
Wilmington University

GOAL 4: Sustain a Thriving Statewide Early Learning System

Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (DAEYC)
Delaware Business Roundtable's Committee on Education and Commission on Early Education and the Economy
Delaware Departments of Education, Health and Social Services and Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
Delaware Early Childhood Council, Committee on Sustainable System Improvement
Delaware Head Start Association
Carlos DiPres, Family Outreach Consultant
Andrew Geroski, Communications Consultant

Donna-Marie King, Communications and Marketing
Just in Time! Communications
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation with DoubleLine Partners
Office of Early Learning Communications Review Panel
Pepperillie, Inc.
Rebecca Perry, Family Outreach Consultant
Robinson Consulting
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
United Way of Delaware, Inc.