Delaware Early Learning Challenge Implementation Plan

Accelerating and Advancing Our Children's Early Learning

GOAL 1: Expand Comprehensive Screening & Follow Up for Young Children

Strategy 1:

Engage health care providers to conduct developmental screenings of more young children

Success Measure: Children screened increases from 22,755 to 25,000

12/2013 - 27,880 children screened

Strategy 2:

Link more families to follow-up services

Success Measure: Number of children with high needs receiving follow-up services increases from 4,900 to 5,400

9/2014 - 6,060 CHN received follow up services, exceeding target

Strategy 3:

Strengthen young child mental health services

Success Measure: Double the capacity of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation service

9/2014 - Capacity more than doubled with 10 consultants – 125% increase

1

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

Strategy 1:

Provide financial incentives for Stars programs serving children with high needs

Success Measure: 74% of centers are in Stars

8/2014 – 74% of centers are in Stars

Strategy 2:

Support programs moving up in Stars rating

Success Measure: Stars programs increase from 134 to 442 (3X); Number of Stars 3-5 programs increase

8/2014 – 455 Stars programs, 59% (270) in top quality tiers (2014 target – 54%)

Strategy 3:

Provide financial incentives for education and retention of Stars early educators

Success Measure: 24% (1,930) of early educators advance on the new Career Lattice; educators who obtain new specialized credential from 0 to 790

8/2014 – 2,340 early educators advanced on Career Lattice; 724 obtained new credentials – 87% of 2015 target

2

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

Strategy 1:

Implement Delaware Early Learner Survey

Success Measure: All kindergarten teachers use the survey with all children

9/2014 – 80% of kindergarten teachers use survey with 8,500 children – 100% of 2014 target

Strategy 2:

Create Readiness Teams in high-needs communities to build early childhood/K-12 links

Success Measure: Local strategies are developed and implemented

9/2014 – 19 Delaware Readiness Teams in high-needs communities across state – 95% of 20 team target

Strategy 3:

Link high school and college professional development for early educators

Success Measure: Aligned curriculum supports career pathways for early educators

9/2014 – 100% complete

3

GOAL 4: Sustain a Thriving Statewide Early Learning System

Strategy 1:

Use data to inform quality improvement and sustainability

Success Measure: New Stars measurement tool. Evaulation of Stars; Improve data systems for tracking enrollment

9/2014 – New tool in development, RAND completed Yr. 1 Stars Eval Rept, Yr. 2 Eval underway. Data system does support enrollment tracking

Strategy 2:

Engage community leaders, including parents, as informed advocates for early learning

Success Measure: Percentage of high-needs children in Star 3-5 programs increases from 5% to 58% (12x)

8/2014 – 49% of CHN are in Stars top tier programs (3-5)

Strategy 3:

Provide leadership for system development and sustainability

Success Measure: Office of Early Learning established; strong stakeholder engagement progress toward a sustainable early learning system

9/2014 – OEL in place effective 4/2013, leads ELC grant management. Sustainability planning underway, 6 month no cost extension with key ELC components continuing thru 6/2016 anticipated.

4

9/2014