



Early Learner Initiatives: Board Update

Dr. Josh Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Ms. Katie Cox, Director of Early Learner Initiatives

June 5, 2023

Presentation Targets



We will understand the professional supports, specific to early learners, for both administrators and teachers to support the district's early learning vision and goals, as recommended by the University of Colorado audit findings in 2022.



Share our efforts to address department needs and increase Kindergarten readiness in our district preschools and in our greater community.



Provide an update on the Priority 6 work to develop a plan to expand early childhood opportunities in alignment with the Board's vision and the Facilities Study. Share an update on progress toward the five-year plan.





Early Learners Mission Statement

Our mission is to create **inclusive learning communities** for children birth through Kindergarten and their families. We elevate student and family engagement through hands on learning, open-ended play, family support, and community outreach.

This nurturing partnership enhances cultural identity, **critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and academic growth**, in order to bring relevant contributions to the world.



Professional Supports: Moving our Mission Forward

Increased Department Team

New Curricular Staff

Administrator of Curriculum, Assessment, and Student Success

Early Learner Instructional Coaches (1 per network)

Expanded Operational Staff Support

Increased First Steps Administrative Contract to 12 months

Updated First Steps Secretarial Support to 12 months

Clarity for Site Administrators and Teachers on Program-Wide Expectations

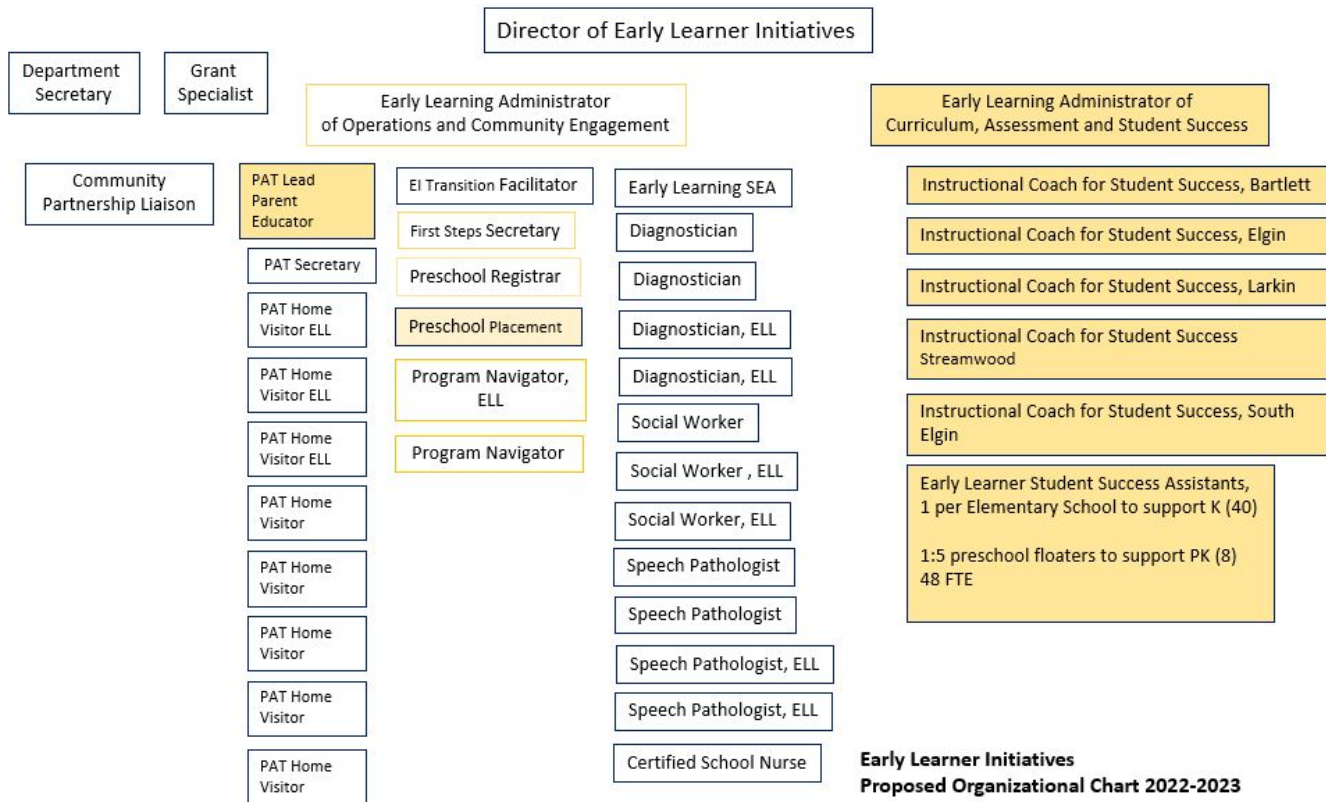
1. Minute Allocation
2. Required Centers
3. Portfolio Collections
4. Instructional Clarity for Early Learner Classrooms with Academic Teaming



Supports Along the Way

1. Collaboratively developed new preschool unit framework and revised Kindergarten integrated curricular units
2. Increased professional development for administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals
3. Continued support with resource needs for buildings and classrooms





**Early Learner Initiatives
Proposed Organizational Chart 2022-2023**

KEY:

New Positions:

Repurposed Positions 21-22:

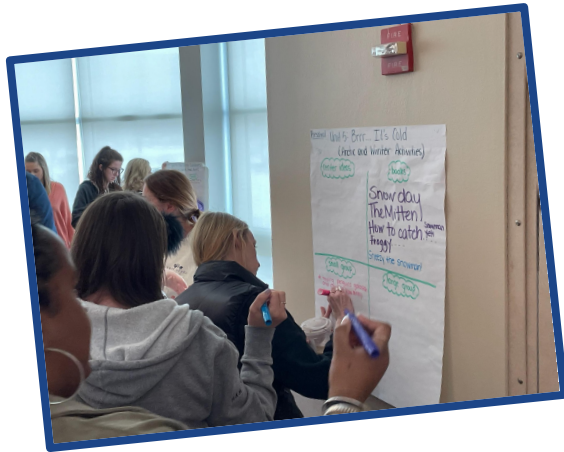
New Added Last Year:

Repurposed for 22-23:



Support Along the Way...

**NEW Preschool
and
Updated Kindergarten
Curricular Units
Proposed for
2023-2024**



**Continued Updates to
Preschool and
Kindergarten
Classroom Materials
and Furniture**
(leveraged over \$1 million
of grant funds to meet this need)

**Director Visits to
All Early Learner
Classrooms
with Building Principals
to
Support Equity and
Play-Based
Implementation**
(171 rooms visited)



**Monthly Department
Communication to Teachers
through Coach Newsletters,
Director Notes to
Administrators**



Kindergarten Readiness in our Community

The Illinois State Board of Education requires the district to survey all Kindergarten students during the first 40 days of school. This provides a profile of each child's development across four developmental domains: Approaches to learning, social emotional development, language and literacy development and cognition, as well as math.

U-46 has been giving this survey of our Kindergarten students since 2016. Below you will see our most recent KIDS data from the Illinois School Report Card.

% of Kindergartners Demonstrating Readiness by Developmental Area						
		% of Kindergartners Rated on Required 14 Measures	In 0 Developmental Areas	In 1 Developmental Area	In 2 Developmental Areas	In All 3 Developmental Areas
Fall 2017	SD U-46	92%	56%	18%	16%	10% (24%)
Fall 2018	SD U-46	93%	50%	19%	15%	15% (26%)
Fall 2019	SD U-46	92%	50%	18%	17%	15% (29%)
Fall 2020	SD U-46	83%	6%	7%	7%	80% (54%)
Fall 2021	SD U-46	86%	41%	18%	17%	24% (28%)

Using the KIDS data to increase our outcomes:

KIDS data:

- Provides aggregated data about early childhood development in our community.
- Helps us see where we need to have more connections and collaborations with our families prior to school enrollment.
- Make decisions about resource allocation and ways we can support our young families in raising strong, kindergarten ready, young learners.
- Helps teachers understand each student's abilities, strengths, and areas of growth.
- Partner with families to support their child's unique learning needs and development.

KIDS Data does not:

- Tell us about Kindergarten instruction or outcomes.



Efforts to Increase Kindergarten Readiness in our Community

Reduction in preschool class size to 15, from 17-20, to better meet the needs of our students.

Rising Kindergarten Summer School Program to support student success in their transition to kindergarten.

Revised Kindergarten transition process and plan for increased support for students transitioning to Kindergarten from the district preschool programs and newcomers to the district.

Continued partnership with our community day care providers by providing professional development to help get us all working toward the same goals.

Continued partnership with Elgin Partnership for Early Learning focused on increasing access to high quality early learning and increasing opportunities in non-traditional settings across the U-46 communities.

Working to increase opportunities for preschool in the district across elementary schools with Unite 46.



District Strategic Plan: Priority 6

The goal of expanding preschool opportunities is to serve our youngest learners and their families better. There is currently a waiting list for our preschool programs that needs to be remedied. To work toward the goal of reaching as many students as possible, the district will:

1. Complete the review and revision of current boundaries.
2. Resize elementary buildings.
3. Determine which schools have the greatest need and greatest availability to house a preschool wing.
4. Adjust budgets needed to support preschool within the buildings.
5. Recruit additional preschool teachers and support staff.
6. Create an effective community outreach plan to identify students for the expanded preschool offerings.

Establish scaffolded roll-out for PreK across the system and the infrastructure to support seats and facilities.



District Strategic Plan: Priority 6

Preschool Expansion Steering Committee Established, October 2022

Team Members: Dr. Suzanne Johnson (Interim Superintendent), Dr. Josh Carpenter (Assistant Superintendent), Katie Cox (Director of Early Learner Initiatives), Dale Burnidge (Director of Finance), Amber Peters (Executive Director of EPEL), Pam Maxey (Administrator of Early Learning) Dr. Elizabeth Ma (Principal), Cody Papp (Resident Administrator), Mishelle O'Regan (HR)

Three Subcommittees Established, December 2022

- *Preschool Messaging and Access:* Lynn Reuter, Katie Cox, Lynn Ward, Beth Kohler, Maria Kantt, Adriana Mosquera-Pierce and Tara Burghardt, Amber Peters, Tiffany Trewartha, Brenda Escobedo
- *Facilities, Infrastructure, and Funding:* Dr. Carpenter, Katie Cox, Dale Burnidge and Cody Papp
- *Staff Recruitment and Capacity Building:* Dr. Johnson, Pam Maxey, Dr. Elizabeth Ma, and Mishelle O'Regan

RESULT: a one-year plan to increase preschool slots has been initiated and a draft five-year plan has been initiated.



Preschool Messaging and Access Committee

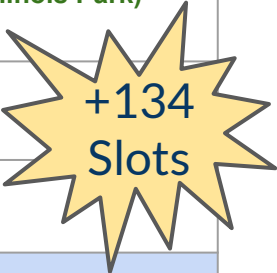
Clear Message	Where to Message
Identify and define all preschool entrance terms. (screening, assessment, registration, etc.)	Redesign department website to increase clarity.
Clearly outline process for preschool screening, what to expect, and how to get assistance.	Create videos to be housed on department website.
Update the community-wide kindergarten readiness campaign to meet the needs of our families.	Texting and social media platforms in collaboration with a community-wide campaign.



One Year Plan for 2023-2024

Facilities, Infrastructure, and Funding

Network	2022-23 (Current)	2023-24 (Grant Funded)
Bartlett	5 Half-day classrooms 10 Full-day classrooms 1 Full-day Special Education classroom	+1 Half-day classroom (Ontarioville) +2 Half-day classrooms (Laurel Hill)
Elgin	3 Half-day classrooms	
Larkin	23 Half-day classrooms 11 Half-day Special Education classrooms	+1 Special Education Classroom (Illinois Park)
South Elgin	1 Half-day classroom	
Streamwood	2 Half-day classrooms	+1 Half-day classroom (Hilltop)
District Total	34 Half-day, 1,020 slots 10 Full-day, 150 slots 12 Special Education classrooms, 168 slots	38 Half-day, 1,140 slots 10 Full-day, 150 slots 13 Special Education classrooms, 182 slots



+134
Slots

DRAFTING the Five-Year Plan

Facilities, Infrastructure, and Funding

Network	2023-2024
Bartlett	8 Half-day 10 Full-day 1 Special Education, DHH
Elgin	3 Half-day
Larkin	23 Half-day 12 Half-day Special Education
South Elgin	1 Half-day
Streamwood	3 Half-day
District Total	38 Half-day, 1,140 10 Full-day, 150 13 Special Education, 182 TOTAL: 1,472

Considerations:

- Declining Enrollment, due to Decreased Community Birth Rates
- Building Retirements
- Unite 46 Efforts
- Middle School Shift and Facility Needs
- Available Grant Funding

Next Steps:

- Continue steering committee work
- Invite community representatives to our steering committee
- Develop five-year plan with all data points and considerations as aligned with Unite 46 initiative

Staff Recruitment and Capacity Building

Current Efforts:

- NIU Cohort of paraeducators currently working on teacher certification, six participants graduating spring of 2024
- Included in all human resource recruitment activities

Recommendations:

- Potential cohort of teachers that are lacking specific credentials
 - Pull credential data of teachers in the district with Early Childhood credentials but missing endorsements
 - Transcripts can be sent to universities for review and to determine next steps
- Strengthen pathways for high school students in early childhood



Capacity Building for our Sites

Building Administrators

- Best practices in supporting preschool students and their families
- Instructional Leadership in preschool

Related Service Staff

- Child development of early learners
- Best practices in meeting the needs of ALL of our young learners

Building Secretaries

- Screening and registration process
- Record keeping and data requirements for preschool students
- How to help us recruit and refer families for preschool



Department Celebrations:

Preschool Screening Numbers Continue to Rise

2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
701	769	629	1,020	1,084	1,382 (projected)

All three preschool grant funded programs were monitored by ISBE this year.

Prevention Initiative (birth to three, Parents as Teachers)

Preschool for All (half-day preschool)

Preschool for All Expansion (full-day preschool)

Touring at an all time high! Visits from:

State Senator Christina Paccione-Zayas to Ronald O'Neal

Troy School District to Sycamore Trails Elementary School

River Forest School District to Sycamore Trails Elementary School

Arlington Heights School District to Fox Meadow Elementary School

All department collaboration day in January!

Many collaborative work groups with administration and teachers working together to improve our practices.

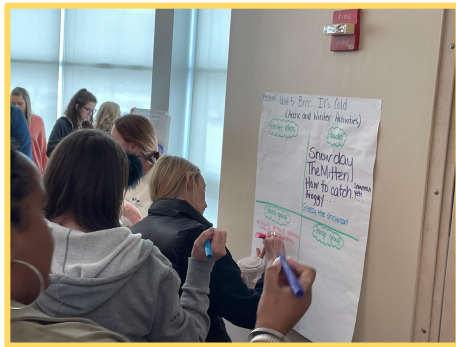


Vision for the Future of Early Learning in U-46

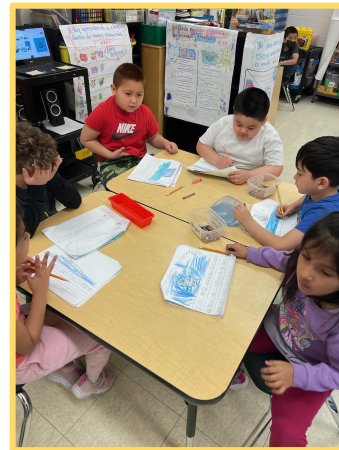
Reduce Barriers



Increase Opportunities



Improve Outcomes



Enhance Readiness

