

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

- Introduced developmental screening in Delaware Stars, trained more than 1,100 early educators who have completed more than 3,000 screens for developmental delays using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, providing linkages to needed services.
- Grew number of primary health care providers using the PEDS developmental screening tool, with more than 28,000 PEDS screens completed through Year 3. A PEDS toolkit for health providers to facilitate the use of the screen and help them make referrals was created.
- Doubled early childhood mental health consultant service capacity to ensure access by 100% of Delaware Stars programs statewide, provided more than 1,600 child consultations; and trained more than 1,100 early learning program staff to promote social and emotional well-being and develop positive relationships with young children, with on-site training provided to more than 50 early educators.
- Increased access to evidence-based, trauma responsiveness mental health treatment for young children and their families by training more than 100 community therapists who now provide young child treatment.

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

- Created Essential Standards, elevating quality in Star 4 and 5 programs, requiring use of written curriculum, child assessment and developmental screening and referral – all core components for high quality programs, based on research.
- Created an array of 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 Stars programs by 250% (from 134 to 478), including 75% of early learning centers and 22% of family-based childhood programs. 59% 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 58% (8,747) by the end of Year Three, exceeding target of 51%.
- Distributed Compensation, Retention and Education (CORE) awards totaling \$4.6M to 1,630+ individuals working in Stars programs who advanced in education or 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); new articulation agreement so that nine credits may count toward degree; launched new, free on-line professional development series of early childhood-related courses.

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

- Created the Delaware Early Learner Survey to inform kindergarten instruction at the child and classroom levels. In Year Three, 84% of K teachers and 87% of K students participated. Full scale implementation on target for all kindergarten classrooms and children in 2015-16.
- Created 21 community-based Delaware Readiness Teams in high-needs areas with broad community participation to improve linkages between early learning (birth to five) and K-3 systems that lead to improved outcomes for children and their families.
- Sponsored state-level conference for all kindergarten teachers, administrators and support staff, promoting a deeper understanding of how the Delaware Early Learner Survey (DE ELS) can be used to inform individualized instruction for children.
- Created a dual enrollment (high school/college) strategy to advance early childhood workforce readiness and created free online preparation course to help remove barrier for college entry, increasing the 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 5,600 and growing.
- Created a website for families with young children—[www.greatstartsdelaware.com](http://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. 13,000 unique visitors representing approximately 9,000 families have used the site.
- In collaboration with the Delaware Early Childhood Council, launched a new Early Childhood Strategic Plan, established four standing Council committees to address the four goals and 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 Network  
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  
Pepperlillie, Inc.  
Rebecca Perry, Family Outreach Consultant  
Robinson Consulting  
Rodel Foundation of Delaware  
United Way of Delaware, Inc.