

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

- Introduced new supports for developmental screening in Delaware Stars in order to assist with identifying developmental delays and provide linkages to needed services.
- Grew number of primary health care providers using the PEDS developmental screening tool, screening more than 5,600 young children to date.
- Doubled early childhood mental health consultation service to early childhood programs statewide, supporting 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

- 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 400, including 70% of early learning centers and 12% of family based childhood programs.
- Launched Compensation, Retention and Education (CORE) awards to individuals working in Stars programs who have improved their education and credentials, raising the standard of care for young children in Delaware Stars.

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

- Instituted 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. More than 400 kindergarten teachers, administrators and staff are trained to use the tool with statewide, full scale implementation on target for 2015.
- Established public-private partnership with 20 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.
- Sponsoring a state-level conference for all kindergarten teachers, administrators and support staff in response to a request from the kindergarten teachers who conducted the Delaware Early Learner Survey (DE ELS), offering an opportunity for deeper understanding of how the DE ELS can be used to inform individualized instruction for children and sharing successes to date.
- Introduced 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 4,600 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 nearly 3,000 individuals, growing at the rate of 100 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.



DELAWARE EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE Partners

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

A Healthy Start for All Children Committee, Delaware Early Childhood Council
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
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

Barclays Bank
Child Assessment Task Force
Children & Families First, Inc.
CORE Compensation, Education and Retention (CORE) 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 its Office of Child Care Licensing
Delaware Early Childhood Council, Committee on High Quality Early Childhood Programs and Professionals
Delaware Stars Evaluation Advisory Committee
Early Child Policy Research
Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore
Infrastructure Grant Advisory Committee

Deana Lukowski, TSI Gold Assessment Technical Assistant
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
Oldham Innovative Research
Participating Families and Programs
RAND, Inc.
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Teach for America, Delaware
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
DEL TEAMS Advisory Committee
Higher Education Partnership Workgroup
Kindergarten teachers, administrators and support staff
K-2 Standards Committee
Lakeshore Learning
Nemours Health and Prevention Services

New Castle County Vocational Technical School
New Castle County Vo-Tech District
Participating Public and Charter Schools
PNC Bank
Polytech High School
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Springfield College, Wilmington Campus
Sussex Technical High School
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

Andrew Geroski, Communications Consultant
Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (DAEYC)
Delaware Business Roundtable and Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee
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
Goins-Williams Associates, Inc.

Donna-Marie King, Communications and Marketing
Just in Time! Communications
Kelly Swanson, Communications consultant
Office of Early Learning Communications Review Panel
Participating parents/families of young children
Penn Cinema on the Riverfront IMAX
Pepperlillie, Inc.
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
United Way of Delaware, Inc.