



PRENATAL TO 3RD GRADE INITIATIVE

Launching Children and Families on a Path to Success



The first two goals in the cradle to career continuum are:

- Norwalk Children are Ready to Learn in Kindergarten
- Norwalk Students Meet Goal Level in 3rd Grade Reading

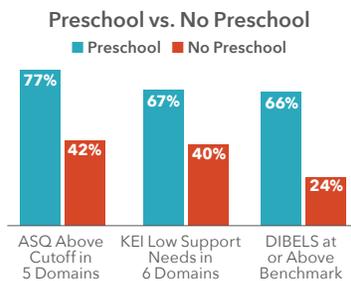
Meeting these two goals requires that the work that supports Kindergarten readiness and strong readers begins long before 3rd Grade.

/ THE PROBLEM

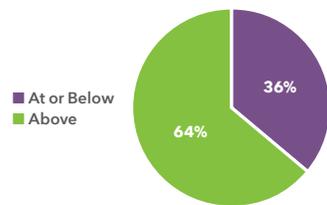
115 of 836 (14%) incoming Kindergartners in 2019-2020 had no preschool experience.

Children with no preschool experience did not perform as well as their peers in three measures of Kindergarten readiness.

2,222 out of 6,218 (36%) children under the age of six are living at or below the federal poverty level or at low income.



Poverty Level Status for Children Under 6



/ WHY IT MATTERS

80% of brain development happens before age three.

Kindergarten readiness refers to the development of the cognitive, behavioral, and social skills that help a child to make a smooth transition into formal schooling and to perform at the appropriate level.

Kindergarten readiness is a strong predictor of long-term achievement.

The National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs has found that high-quality early childhood programs can yield a \$4 to \$9 dollar return per \$1 invested.

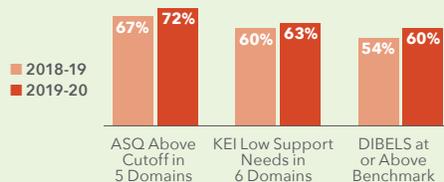
/ WHAT WE ARE DOING

The Prenatal to 3rd Grade Initiative has four Working Groups that focus on:

- Home Visiting
- Language and Literacy
- Pre-K to K Transition
- Early Childhood Health and Development

As a result of the collective efforts of the early childhood community, gains have been made in the past year on these three performance measures.

Ready to Learn in Kindergarten - Year to Year



To strengthen the work of the initiative, we continue to integrate these areas of focus:

- Data
- Social Justice and Equity
- Out of School Time
- Parent and Community Engagement
- Policy and Advocacy

PRENATAL TO 3RD GRADE TOOLKIT

AGES AND STAGES QUESTIONNAIRE

ASQ screens the development of children in the areas of communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem solving, and personal-social skills.

THE BASICS

The Basics are five clusters of parenting and caregiving behaviors that highlight the importance of boosting cognitive and social emotional development of children from birth to age three.

PRESCHOOL EARLY LITERACY INDICATORS

The PELI is an assessment for 3- to 5-year-olds designed to measure pre-literacy and oral language skills.

KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE INVENTORY

The KEI was designed to provide a statewide snapshot of the skills students demonstrate at the beginning of the Kindergarten year.

DIBELS

DIBELS is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of a set of K-6 literacy skills.

ABOUT THE PRENATAL TO 3RD GRADE INITIATIVE



These four working groups are combining the efforts of the early childhood community and data to promote the value of early interventions and are changing programmatic strategies to address identified need.

/ HOME VISITING

Vision

Create a Community Home Visiting System where children who receive services between birth and age five are entering Kindergarten ready to learn

Highlights

- Norwalk Early Childhood Home Visiting Referral Form used by 23 providers
- Created a common language and shared understanding of child development between parents, early care and education providers, home visitors, and pediatricians

/ LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Vision

Engage all Norwalk children in experiences that cultivate their language and literacy development from birth through 3rd grade

Highlights

- Since 2014, close to 5,000 children have been assessed using PELI Literacy Assessment
- 100 home visitors and teachers trained in The Basics

/ PRE-K TO K TRANSITION

Vision

Norwalk will have alignment between Pre-K and K teachers with agreed upon expectations of what it means for children to be ready to learn when they enter Kindergarten

Highlights

- Incoming Kindergarten Summaries created for 800+ students
- A comprehensive Pre-K to K Data Dashboard showing Kindergarten readiness indicators for internal use
- *Step into Kindergarten* website created for parents to have access to Kindergarten readiness information and resources <https://sites.google.com/norwalkps.org/step-into-kindergarten/home>

/ EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

Vision

To create a community-wide system where children receive regular developmental screening (ASQ) and tiered interventions between birth and age five so they enter Kindergarten developmentally ready to learn

Highlights

- ASQ developmental screenings provided for all funded preschools
- Created a common language and shared understanding of child development between parents, early care and education providers, home visitors, and pediatricians

Working Together, Everything Is Achievable.

Norwalk ACTS

The mission of Norwalk ACTS is to enrich and improve the lives and futures of all of Norwalk's children and youth, from cradle to career.

Norwalk ACTS is a not-for-profit, cross-sector cradle to career partnership. We are made up of over 100 community and civic leaders, educators, organizations, and individuals who are committed to building and sustaining a community infrastructure to support a safe, equitable, and successful pathway for each and every child in Norwalk.

Our vision is that Norwalk will be the healthiest city in America for a child to grow academically, social emotionally, and physically.

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