

Quarterly Convening

June 13, 2023

Agenda

9:00-9:25	Welcome, Overview of Agenda, Community Engagement at Norwalk ACTS
9:25-10:05	Civic Engagement Panel
10:05-10:30	Table Discussions
10:30-10:40	Whole Group Discussion
10:40-11:00	Voting on New Board & Annual Awards

Community & Youth Engagement

▶ Youth Community Advocate program: 4 students

- Learned about collective impact
- Increased knowledge of community resources
- Hosted Youth listening sessions about the youth survey and utilized their role to collect data, share information, resources and activities for young people



▶ Local Initiatives related to youth

- Teen Night Out Initiative with The Norwalk Partnership and the City of Norwalk Youth Services Advisory Board
 - » Hosted 3 Teen Nights Out; Bowling Night, Ice Skating Night and Off the Wall Kreationz; about 180 students attended
- Freshman Forum- NPS & TNP
- Mentoring Program: First Field Day

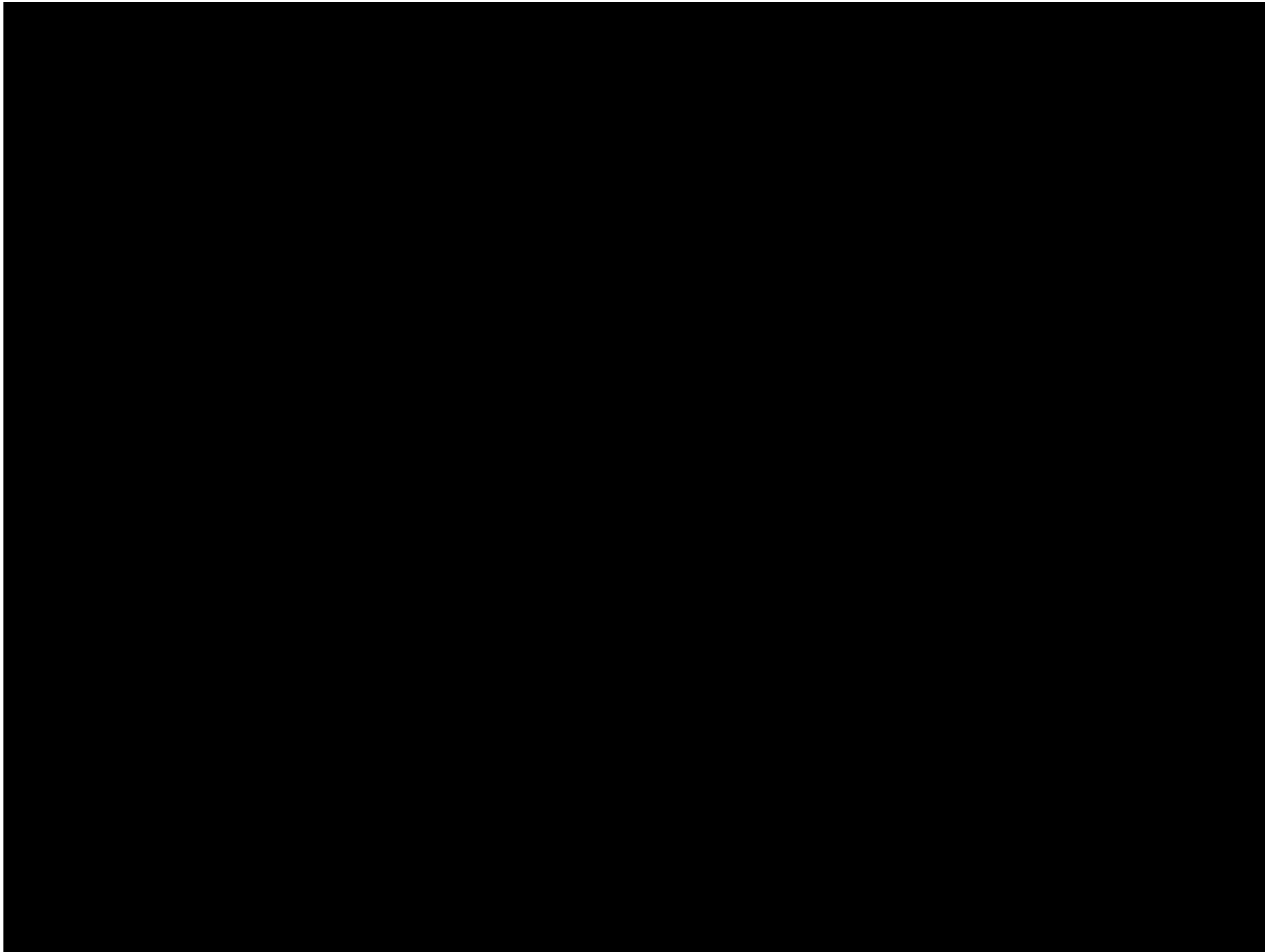


▶ New to this years activities: Youth Civic Engagement

Trivia Night: hosted by our Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas at the Youth Business Initiative



Youth Advocate Videos



▶ 2nd Annual NorWALK for Mental Health on the Town Green

- "NorWALK for Mental Health" is a community awareness event to promote the social connections we all need, provide a fun outdoor walk to highlight the importance of mental health, and through an interactive resource fair, showcase mental health and substance use resources
- This was true collaboration and with:
 - » The Norwalk Partnership
 - » Riverbrook Regional YMCA
 - » First Taxing District
 - » Nuvance Health
 - » Over 30 community providers hosting interactive tables
 - » The Mayor and many local dignitaries

Great to see a range of people represented on this day, and experience moments from little kids dancing with bubbles to adults enjoying yoga and zumba.

- ▶ We are looking forward to continuing this partnership to build our community around the importance of mental health.

Community Engagement



Alignment to EC Initiative Goals/Objectives

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

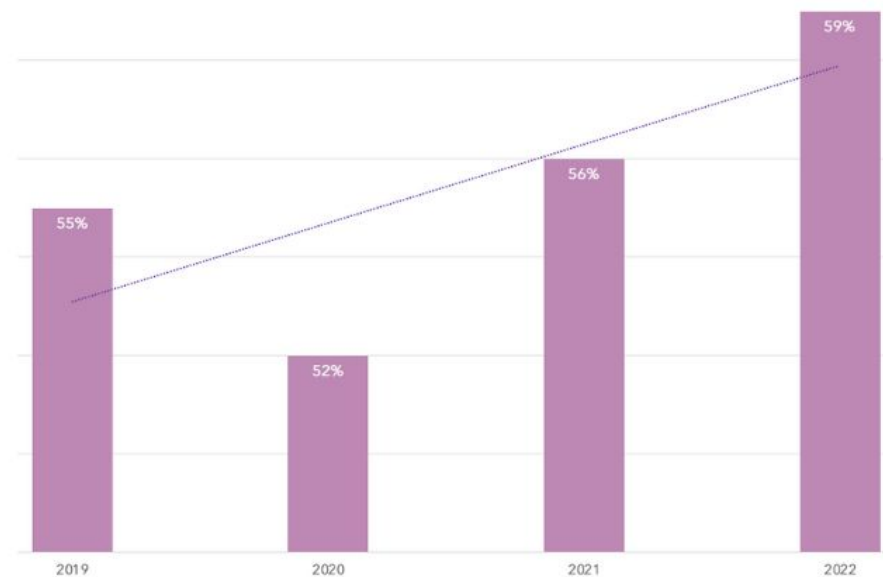
Birth to Age 3 Developmental Growth

Problem Statement

Norwalk's support and reach to families with children from birth to age three is a mixed-delivery model (public and private community-based providers) with points of misalignment and fragmentation among the services for infants and toddlers. As a result, many children at age three are not on track across the five domains of development.

Key Data Point

Five Domain Developmental Readiness Trends at Age 3



The graph shows trend data at age three (36 Month Ages & Stages Questionnaire interval) for the percentage of children who achieved five domain developmental readiness as measured by parent/caregiver-completed screens by each year. While developmental readiness is increasing for those who are being screened, 41% are still not on track with the five domains of developmental readiness as measured by parents/caregivers in 2022.

Source: 211 Child Development, United Way of Connecticut

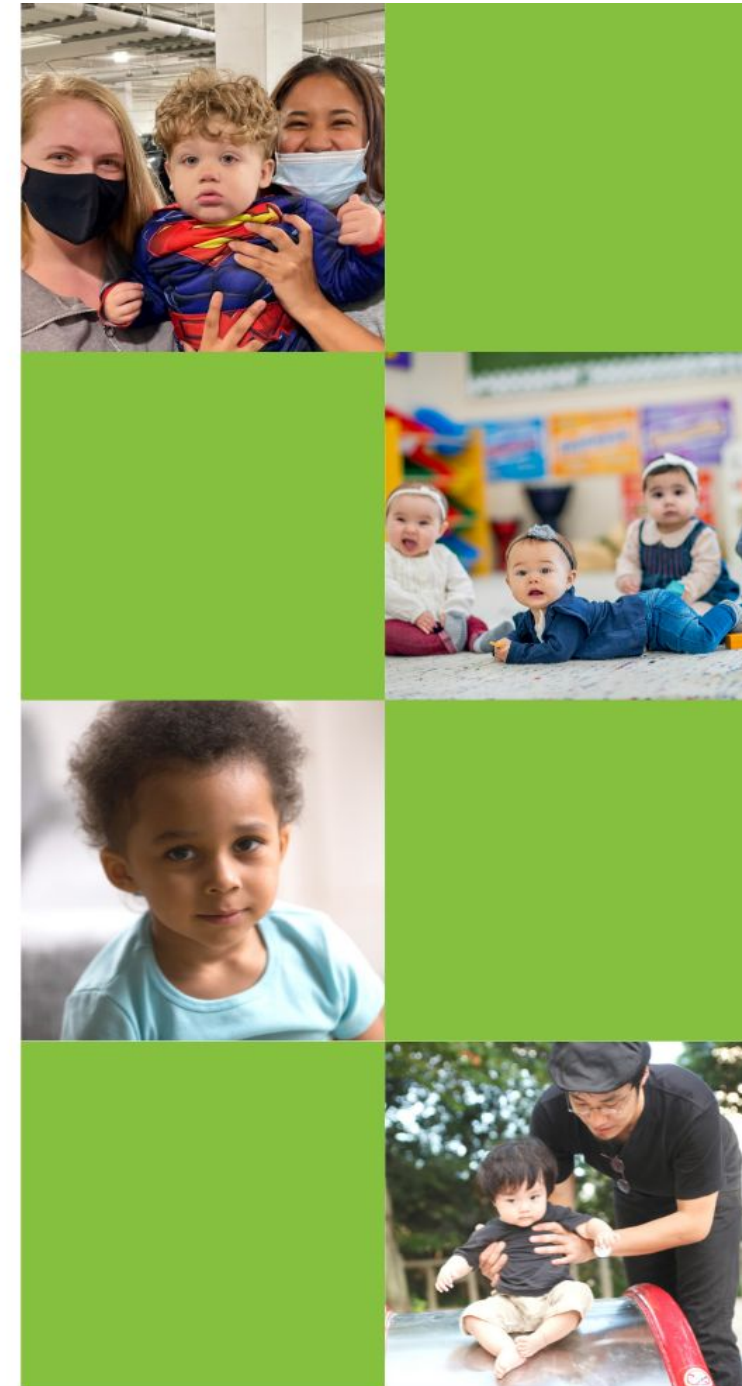
Goals & Objectives

Improve coordination of services across early childhood professionals and agencies by implementing a community-wide system for screening, tracking, and promoting young children's development, using a common tool, the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), a nationally recognized five domain developmental growth screen that was designed to be completed by parents/caregivers

1. Build capacity and understanding of parents/caregivers of the importance of the developmental domains and empower parents/caregivers with skills and resources to discuss/advocate concerns with their child's pediatrician
2. Institute routine developmental screenings measured by the ASQ for all young children as early as possible and at each developmental touchpoint and identify children with developmental concerns and connect them to services as needed
3. Work with system providers to ensure access to services and resources for parents/caregivers with children from birth to age five

Community-Level Outcome Indicator

- % increase of children ages 0-3 on track in achieving five domain developmental readiness as measured by the ASQ



Alignment to EC Initiative Goals/Objectives



EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

Pre-K to Kindergarten Transition

Problem Statement

Norwalk's youngest learners who are just beginning Pre-K or kindergarten have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. Data reveals lower preschool attendance, literacy rates, developmental growth, and kindergarten entrance inventory results for the class of 2034. To help mitigate the lasting effects, it is essential to strengthen transition points to help children move forward successfully.

Key Data Point

Kindergarten Entrance Inventory (KEI Ready) Results



CLASS OF 2031 (18-19) CLASS OF 2032 (19-20) CLASS OF 2033 (20-21) CLASS OF 2034 (21-22)

For the Class of 2034, 42% of incoming kindergarteners were not on track for Kindergarten readiness. The CT KEI is a beginning of year skills snapshot, based on teachers' observations of student performance levels (1, 2, 3) by domain (Creative, Language, Literacy, Numeracy, Personal, Physical). We define KEI ready as performing at level 2 or 3 on all 6 domains.

Source: Norwalk Public Schools

Goals & Objectives

A strong Norwalk early childhood system is essential for all Norwalk children to be ready for success in kindergarten. A community of continuous learning and improvement between Pre-K and kindergarten teachers has been established to implement effective transition planning.

1. Identify areas of alignment/misalignment between or within Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers' understanding of the skills and knowledge children need/should have for kindergarten entry
2. Engagement of parents/caregivers through tools and resources to ensure student school readiness success
3. Share Pre-K to K assessment information in a streamlined manner

Community-Level Outcome Indicator

- % increase of children ages three to five on track in the five domains of developmental growth as measured by the ASQ
- % increase in preschool enrollment
- % improvement in Kindergarten Entrance Inventory (KEI) performance, PreSchool Early Literacy Initiative (PELI) performance, and DIBELS Literacy Assessment performance as measured by the ASQ

Developing Supportive Relationships with Parents

Early Childhood Community Advocates Pilot Projects & Community Outreach

- Early Childhood School Readiness Programs
- Norwalk Housing Authority & Community Outreach
- Norwalk Community Health Center
- Kindergarten Readiness Process

“Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued: when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

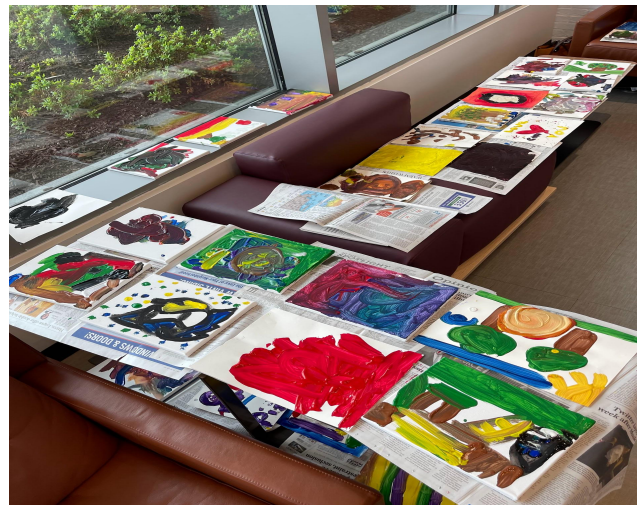
Brene Brown

The Gifts of Imperfection

OUTCOMES – School Readiness Programs

Early Childhood Education (ECE) School Readiness Pilot Projects - Fall '21 and Fall '22

- Implementation of the ECE Community Advocate Program was initiated in Fall 2021.
- The number of completed ASQs by parents has increased every year due to the CA Program.
- Growing Seeds and Room to Grow have participated in these pilot projects the past 2 years.



OUTCOMES

Norwalk Housing Authority & Community Outreach

Norwalk Housing Authority Pilot Project - September 2022 to February 2023

69% of children scored **on track** in all of the five developmental domains on the ASQ-3

Community Outreach



OUTCOMES - Norwalk Community Health Center

Pilot Project Start Date March 20, 2023

60%

of children scored **on track** in all of the five developmental domains on the ASQ-3

60%

of children who took ASQ are children under three years old

OUTCOMES - Registered NPS K-Student Outreach

March 2023 - May 9, 2023

60

families served by Community Advocates

90%

of families connected with at least one community service:
211 Child Development | Home Visiting Program | NPS Family Center | ELLI Summer Camp | Library Activities | Other

17%

of families had been enrolled at Camp ELLI

7%

of children reached are receiving special needs services or waiting for an evaluation

21% of children scored in monitor or below

Thank you all!




EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY RESOURCE MEET UP

Norwalk Public Schools and Norwalk ACTS are offering the Early Childhood Family Resource Meet Up to bring parents together to learn more about the Early Childhood Education options in Norwalk.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- FREE TOOLS AND RESOURCES
- DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES 0-5 YRS
- BUBBLES, CHALK AND LOTS OF OUTSIDE FUN
- FREE STEPPING STONES MUSEUM PASSES FOR FAMILIES THAT ATTEND THE MEET UP

AND MEET OTHER FAMILIES! YOUR CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Next Meet Up: June 8 2023, 9AM to 10AM
Devon's Place at Matthews Park 295 West Ave.
In case of rain, we will meet at the Family Center, One Park Street, Norwalk, CT

*Meets the second Thursday of each month

Please Contact:
Carol Carozzelli - School Readiness Coordinator
203-854-4114
carozzelli@norwalkps.org



Join us for an PLAY AND LEARN EVENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 7-8 PM

Roodner Court Learning Center, 261 Ely Avenue Norwalk, CT

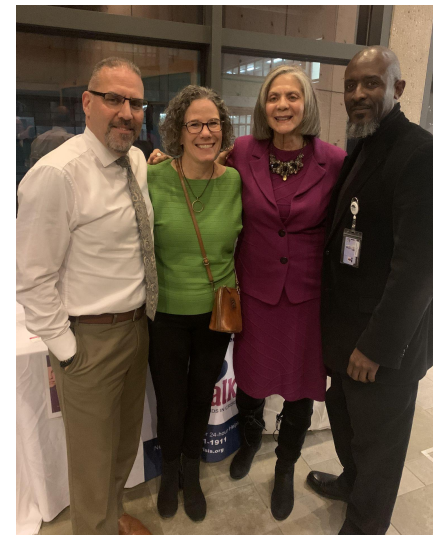

A FREE gift card will be provided to every parent that attends

Learn about the positive impact of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Free Sparkler Mobile App

MEET WITH MRS. JOSIE AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

DINNER & DOOR PRIZES

For more info: 203-644-4720

Childhood Conversations Together We Will...

2023 Annual Conference
Community Healing through Connections

Keynote
Nelba Márquez-Greene, Founder, The Ana Grace Project

Saturday, April 22, 2023
8:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hartford Marriott Downtown
200 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103



Today's Panelists



**CT Secretary of the State
Stephanie Thomas**



**State Representative
Dominique Johnson**



**Council Member
Darlene Young**



**Director of Economic &
Community Development, Office
of Representative Jim Himes
Vernita Tertulien**

Table Group Discussion Agenda & Norms

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction (Name, Affiliation)
- ▶ What is your own experience and comfort level with civic engagement? What shaped this?
- ▶ From your lens, what are the biggest barriers to civic engagement?
- ▶ What resources would help you move forward with your own civic engagement?

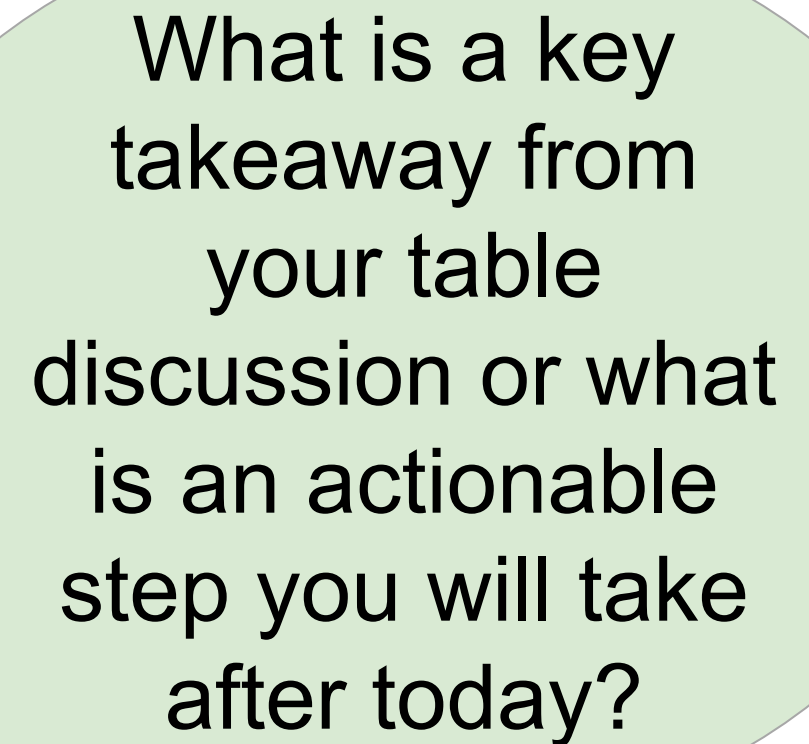
Group Norms

1. Listen and be open to different perspectives and experiences.
2. Show respect and suspend judgment.
3. Disagreement is an opportunity to expand our perspectives.
4. Check your assumptions and assume positive intent.
5. Be purposeful and to the point.
6. Step up, step back.

Whole Group Debrief

Highlights from table discussion

- ❖ What is your own experience and comfort level with civic engagement? What shaped this?
- ❖ From your lens, what are the biggest barriers to civic engagement?
- ❖ What resources would help you move forward with your own civic engagement?
- ❖ What is one action step (personally or professionally) that you will commit to?



What is a key takeaway from your table discussion or what is an actionable step you will take after today?

2023-24 Proposed Board of Director Slate



Orlando Aquino



Dajuan Wiggins

****Only Norwalk ACTS members who signed the 2020 MOA are eligible to vote.***

Thank you to Rev. Elizabeth Abel and Cheryl DeVonish for their service on the board!

Voting on Board- If you signed our MOA, please vote!



Ubuntu Award - I am, because you are

Ubuntu exists when people unite for a common good; that if we join together we can overcome our differences and our problems. Whoever we are, wherever we live, whatever our culture, Ubuntu can help us coexist in harmony and peace.



2023 Ubuntu Award

- Presented by Angel Dorleans and Anamilena Moreno to

Dajuan Wiggins



2023 Sally Grose Award

- Presented by Paula Palermo to

Ralph Valenzisi



Closing Announcements

Sign up on our website for our newsletter!

September news & updates

September 9th, 2021

Upcoming Events
See what's happening this month.

News You Can Use
[The Hour: Census Data: Norwalk Has the 7th Highest Population Increase in CT](#)
[CT Post: "In Their Own Words," Dalio Education Funds Storytelling Platform for CT Teachers](#)
[Chalk Talk: For Norwalk Schools, Resolving Equity Gaps Starts with a Mindset Shift](#)

Member Spotlight
[ALL OUR KIN](#)

All Our Kin is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that trains, supports, and sustains family child care educators—transforming opportunities by ensuring that children and families have the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life.

[Become a Norwalk ACTS member today!](#)

FOLLOW US FOR OUR LATEST NEWS

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DON'T MISS OUT!

Are you a member?
Please sign our digital
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Norwalk ACTS

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

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. In doing so, it is our vision that Norwalk will be the healthiest city in America for a child to grow up in - academically, socially/emotionally, and physically. Social justice and racial equity are core values of Norwalk ACTS. We are committed to continuing to disaggregate data and report on racial and economic disparities so that together we can deploy tools and resources to support adoption of equitable practices. This includes evaluating our internal operations and systems and building our own capacity to make measurable progress towards being a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization. The Norwalk ACTS Membership, having adopted the principles of **Collective Impact** and the **StriveTogether Theory of Action** for building cradle to career civic infrastructure, is helping our community build an integrated system to address the academic, social emotional, and health/wellness needs of Norwalk's children.

Principles of Collective Impact

- Common Agenda
- Shared Measurement
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- Continuous Communication
- Backbone Support

StriveTogether Pillars

- Shared Community Vision
- Evidence Based Decision Making
- Collaborative Action
- Investment and Sustainability

Additionally, we incorporate these additional **eight practices** of Collective Impact:

1. Design and implement initiatives with a priority placed on equity
2. Include community members in the collaborative
3. Recruit and co-create with cross-sector partners
4. Use data to continuously learn, adapt, and improve
5. Cultivate leaders with unique system leadership skills
6. Focus on program and system strategies
7. Build a culture that fosters relationships, trust, and respect across participants
8. Customize for local context

Our Collective Impact process, strategies, and initiatives are aimed at the achievement or increase in the % of the following community level outcomes:

- Norwalk children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Norwalk students meet the goal level in 3rd grade reading.
- Norwalk students have the necessary skills to successfully transition from 5th to 8th grade.
- Norwalk students have the necessary skills to successfully transition from 8th to 9th grade.
- Norwalk students graduate from high school in 4 years ready for college, post-secondary training, or full-time employment.
- Norwalk graduates are career-ready with a college degree or professional certificate.

Save the date

The day of training is a free, professional development opportunity for any adult who works to meet the diverse needs of Norwalk's youth.

Norwalk ACTS

DAY OF TRAINING

June 21, 2023
9-3:30 PM


at Jefferson School
75 Van Buren Avenue, Norwalk, CT

*Space is limited, please register by 6/14 to ensure a spot

REGISTER NOW!

<https://bit.ly/NACTSTraining>

Questions? Contact Jesse at jbuccolo@norwalkacts.org



Our 3rd Annual Partnership Survey

Norwalk **ACTS**

ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP SURVEY



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK
WE INVITE YOU TO LET US KNOW HOW WE
ARE DOING WITHIN THE CORNERSTONES
OF OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT WORK.



OR VISIT
<https://bit.ly/NACTSSurvey>

- 5-10 minutes
- All answers will be anonymous.
- All multiple choice questions with three optional open-ended questions

The results of the survey will be developed into a partnership progress report that we will present to our membership on an annual basis to hold ourselves accountable.

How did we do?

Please give us feedback on our Convening

