



*Pulling Together for the Children of Frederick County*

---

## Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee

*A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board*

### **Mission Statement:**

To promote the healthy development and well-being of young children and their families through community collaboration

### **Meeting Minutes**

March 7, 2024

Notes:

**Attendees:** Kerry Fair, Virginia Shell, Diana Fulchiron, Jennifer Thompson, Jessica Lertora, Delaine Welch, Samantha Carter, Pilar Olivo, Patty Morison, Holly Sontz, Leslie Frei, Danica Warden, Shelly Toms, Brytani Fraser, Christy Donnelly, Kelly Robbins, Steve Buckley, Erin Gambrill, Tara Plowman, Leslie Barnes-Keating, Jim Miller, Kittybelle Hosford, Kelli Goetz, Sarah Scherhauser, Adam Schlager, Nancy Boyd

#### **FCPS Updates & KRA Data - [Link to Slideshow](#)**

- un-embargoed and can be shared within school systems
- FCPS working to achieve 5 pillars of MD Blueprint model
- Studies show that children who attend PreK are much more ready for Kindergarten than children who do not attend PreK in many ways
- Year 2022-2023
  - 49 traditional PreK classes, 2 innovative in High schools, 4 half day 4s, 18 special ed and inclusive classes for a total of 71 PreK classes
- Year 2023-2024
  - 61 traditional PreK classrooms, 4 innovative classrooms in high schools, 25 special education and inclusive PreK classes (3s and 4s) for a total of 86 classes
- Year 2024-2025 projections
  - 58 traditional PreK classes, 7 innovative in high schools, 29 special education and inclusive classes (3s and 4s) for a total of 87 classes
- More children being identified with special education needs than in the past
  - child find is a year round process and those children get placed at all times throughout the year
  - For the 2024-2025 school year, morning 3 year old half days will be kids who are newly identified. They'll attend class M/T and W/Th
- Updates for blueprint
  - new early learning standards which include new age periods (young infants, older infants, toddlers, PreK3, etc.)

- simplified domains (SEL development, approaches to learning, language and literacy, early cognition and STEM, physical well-being and motor development)
- child examples and in practice teacher examples
- New assessment for kindergarten readiness
  - moving away from current KRA, independent analysis shows potential bias against multilingual learners
  - Currently in use - KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)
    - assesses skills learned prior to kindergarten, aligned to the early learning standards, administered between first day of schools and 10/10, mix of ways to assess (observational, selected response, and completion of tasks)
    - Demonstrating Readiness, approaching readiness, and emerging readiness
    - Families get ISR (individual student report) that shows scores and gives recs for things to do at home to increase skills
    - 50% rounded FredCo K students demonstrating readiness
    - 44% Maryland students demonstrating readiness
    - No significant changes in demonstrating readiness over the last couple of years
    - data shows that children with formal care before entering kindergarten perform better than children with informal care before kindergarten
- FCPS, as a whole, grew 10% in the last 2 years - the next closest was Carroll with 2%

#### **ECAC Updates**

- Received NOGA recently
- Timeline is not adjusted so expect that work will need to start right away
- Will need amendment ASAP as end of fiscal year is 6/30/24
- Some things in grant for Children's Festival and for the learning day

#### **Children's Festival (April 27th)**

- Flyer is finalized
- 2 children's champions sponsors this year: PNC and Family Connects with Frederick Health Hospital (meeting budget goals due to having 2)
- Exceeded \$4,000 in donations, expecting smaller donations to come in
- Now that ECAC grant has come through there is funding for YouTube video and vroom ring cards and other materials for families
- Currently have 13 booths - good number for this time of year, early bird deadline is April 4, expecting 60-70 booths total, applications for booths still being accepted
- All but 2 entertainment slots are booked, Judy Center @ Lincoln sponsoring Mr. Jon
- Family Connects celebrating birthday during event
- Everything on track but still looking for volunteers

#### **Child Care Market Study**

- County exec doing final briefing March 21 at 3:00 pm at Winchester Hall
- Finalization of project ideas and issue RFPs target date June 30
  - Selecting vendors and completing contracts by September 30
  - Project work begins by December 30
- Deadlines are tight and quickly approaching
- Conducting survey for community input
  - April 20 in-person convening with child care providers and families

- Local Management Board will now convene a workgroup to focus on childcare hopefully with members of IECC participating
- Website will go live after meeting on March 21

#### **Partner Sharing**

- PreK applications have opened, systemic announcement scheduled to go out 3/8/24
- Most recent state board meeting passed that school systems can implement sliding scale tuition for families over 300% poverty level
  - FCPS is waiving that sliding scale for 24-25
- Families need proof of address, proof of birth and income documentation
- Website has been redone and includes all info needed to apply.
  - [www.fcps.org/ece/pre-k-application](http://www.fcps.org/ece/pre-k-application)
- Middletown library branch opening May 4, 2024

#### **Partner question**

Do any members have connections to childcare partners who would be willing to share what the COVID policies are for that childcare center/daycare?