

Delray Beach CSAP - Kindergarten Readiness

Assurance #1

School Readiness has improved over the past four (4) years and stands at 78% in 2011 with 75% of our students attending a State Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) curriculum at a vetted and monitored provider. Race, poverty, ESE and ELL status all significantly impact readiness. Delray Beach is home to a continuum school, Village Academy, housing Head Start - 12th Grade students integrating social, emotional, health, academic, after-school, summer and parental components to drive student success; in spite of its 98% low income status, 80% of those students are ready, compared to other low-income schools with 45%-61%.

The *Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener* (FLKRS) was administered by the School District for the sixth (6th) year in 2011 to assess the readiness of each child for kindergarten. Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds describe what children should know and be able to do at the end of the VPK year in the areas of Physical Development, Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language Communication and Emergent Literacy, and Cognitive Development and General Knowledge. The FLKRS includes a subset of the *Early Childhood Observation System*[®] (ECHOS[®]) and the Broad Screen/Progress Monitoring Tool and Broad Diagnostic Inventory of the *Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading – Kindergarten* (FAIR-K).

Delray Beach schools serve 629 of the District's 10,563 or 6% of all Kindergarten students. As mentioned before, demographics show girls outscore boys 81% versus 76%; and 93% of White, 91% of American Indian, 89% of Multi-racial, 73% of Hispanic and 63% of Black students are ready for kindergarten. A significant portion of our Black students are Haitian and are also counted in ELL figures. For ESE, 95% test ready compared to 76% of non-ESE students, likely driven by specialized ESE pre-Kindergarten programs and interventions. The largest gaps in readiness are driven by ELL with 48% testing ready compared to 82% of their non-ELL peers and low-income students test 63% ready compared to 94% of their peers.

We also see large school-to-school differences. Our IB elementary school has an overall 96% readiness score, while our non-choice, community schools score 45%-61% ready. In general, as poverty and ELL increase, readiness decreases. Schools with high Black populations have lower scores, again correlating to a high Haitian population who are not native speakers.

Based on our demographics, 62% of school-age children live in poverty. Combined with ELL levels of 18% and ESE levels of 12%, our readiness and reading scores should be lower, but we are fortunate to have a wide net of services for our students that are largely funded by the Children's Service's Council (CSC), which is an independent special taxing district to coordinate and fund partnerships with multiple community agencies that provide education reform, quality after school care opportunities, health and wellness information, parent support and access to medical care for pregnant women and young children in the Delray Beach community.

Assurance #2

Since 2005, in order to help **School Readiness**, the State of Florida has provided free VPK, for all students by age 4 and approximately 70% of our Delray Beach students attend. In 2011, 79% of all Delray kindergarten students tested "ready" for school as determined by FLKRS assessment, up from

68% in 2010, exceeding District scores of 69% and 65%, respectively, demonstrating the effectiveness of the VPK program. It should be noted the bar is rising on Kindergarten standards and subsequently VPK standards going forward.

Literature tells us that the majority of brain growth and development takes place by age 5, a driver of the state VPK program. 18% of our children ages 0-4 attend a quality pre-school program (11% state funded reaching our low-income children and 7.4% private agencies – general population). Village Academy added 185, 3-4 year-old Head Start students in the fall of 2012 with plans to add 16 children, 0-3 year-olds in 2013. Further, a prenatal intervention program is planned for 2014. A private provider will be expanding its services to include 50 children 0-4 year-olds in 2013. The City will take an aggressive approach to advocate and find subsidies to place children in private/public centers to increase the percentage of children attending a quality pre-school program incrementally, as outlined in chart below.

School Readiness Goal	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2020
<i>% Attend quality structured PreK</i>	70	80	85	95	95	95
<i>% Ready for Kindergarten (FLKRS)</i>	80	85	85	90	95	95
<i>% Attend quality 0-4 program</i>	18	21	21.5	24	24.5	27

Assurance #3

In Delray Beach, **School Readiness** data indicates that 79% of 2011 kindergarten students were rated “ready” for kindergarten via FLKR assessment and 70% of our incoming students attended VPK. Our strategy will take two approaches: **augment the Village Academy Model to increase readiness score from 80% to 100%; and increase the opportunity for more children to attend a quality, pre-school reaching the 21% that are not ready for school.**

The Village Academy continuum model will parallel the Harlem Children’s Zone, which began in 2012, **will expand in 2013, with services to include Early Head Start programming comprising 8 children (0-12 months), 8 students (12-36 months) and 3 slots for pregnant women whose child after birth will automatically be enrolled into the Head Start program. This will necessitate the expansion of the City’s partnership with ACCF to provide after-school services to these families.** The vision is to create a comprehensive, educational environment for children and families starting at birth, thus *producing 100% kindergarten readiness rate and less than 5% third grade retention rate.* Starting this year, Village Academy Head Start (pre-K) students will be monitored through third grade to assess reading proficiency compared to retention rates as measured by FCAT assessment.

This education environment provides the opportunity to easily access community resources due to the robust partnerships being created and leveraging multiple resources to meet and exceed the Head Start Performance Standards. In the Head Start program at Village Academy, the education component oversight will be managed by the School District and the health services will be provided by a combination of resources to include Head Start administrative support. **The Palm Beach County Health Department is providing a full time nurse to be located on campus, dedicated to the Head Start children with a goal to establish a Community Health Clinic.** The family support services will be a

combination of working with the Head Start funded family support specialists and a dedicated Family Support Specialist from a local, research-based program and School and Family Support Services Program that will work with the higher need clients. The School and Family Support Services Program serve children up to grade three and can remain working with the families as they continue through the school system.

The children in Head Start will have access to VPK dollars to extend their time in the classroom to a full day. Village Academy will partner with ACCF to expand their existing Beacon program to include the Head Start children. CSC funds and manages the Quality Counts system; therefore, the Head Start program will have access to multiple supports including coaching, professional development and scholarships to continuously improve quality in the child care setting. **In 2013, CSC’s Healthy Beginnings nurse program, operated by the Department of Health that provides nursing services for pregnant mothers in the Early Head Start program, will be provided at Village Academy.** Another enhancement will be that the Head Start teachers will be trained in an evidence-based community initiative, Triple P, a positive parenting program.

To summarize, the Village Academy continuum school is the City’s comprehensive pilot program servicing children from birth to career with wrap-around services for the whole family. **Our ambitious goal is to duplicate this model in 5 years to the next lowest performing Title 1 School.**

While the City will continue to advocate for the expansion of Head Start and VPK to our other Title 1 schools, allocations are determined by County and Federal grant dollars. The City will take the lead to provide linkages with existing private providers and non-profit agencies to allow for a transparent stream of services between early childcare agencies and schools. **The City is already in the process of expanding their Neighborhood Resource Center, located in the heart of the minority neighborhood, to include agencies focusing on birth-5 year old population at no cost to the agency. The City will aggressively pursue private and federal grant dollars to enhance, family literacy programming and the establishments of Parent Resource Centers,** such as the one located at Village Academy at other Title 1 schools sites. The Parent Resource Center coordinates and provides families with information and registration for adult classes, school activities, resource linkage and social service referrals.

XII. Kindergarten Readiness Objectives

Goal –Kindergarten Readiness	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2020
Village Academy - strategy						
Transition 185 Head start children to early childhood wing	X	X	X	X	X	X
Expand Early Head Start to include 0-4 year olds		X	X	X	X	X
Expand ACCF afterschool services to include Early Head start families		X	X	X	X	X
Implement Healthy Beginnings nurse program		X	X	X	X	X
Establish a Community Health Clinic				X	X	X
Title 1 School Strategy:						
Increase Family Literacy Program offerings in 3 Title 1 schools			PG	+OV	+PL	
Add Parent Resource Centers in each school		PG	+OV	+PL	+SP	+BC
Modify Neighborhood Resource Center to include agencies servicing birth – 5 year olds			X	X	X	X
Replicate Village Academy Model to highest need Title 1 school – Pine Grove					PG	X

APPENDIX

Village Academy Continuum School Vision

Out of concern for the increasing number of “At-Risk” minority students in grades K-3, Village Academy has implemented a “one-of-a-kind” K-12 public school with a Head Start early learning component incorporating children from birth to 4 years old. In addition, this concept offers a pre-natal component for expecting mothers. The vision of this birth – 12th grade institution is to create a comprehensive educational environment for children and families starting at birth thus producing 100% kindergarten readiness rate and a less than 5% third grade retention rate. Starting in school year 2012-2013, former 2011-2012 Village Academy Head Start (Pre-K) students will be monitored through third grade to assess reading proficiency compared to retention rates as measured by FCAT assessment. The information below will further outline the program services children and families receive through Village Academy’s Head Start – 12th Grade school.

Village Academy Head Start Prenatal Services for Expecting Mothers:

- Pre-natal health screenings and medical referrals
- Health & Nutritional classes (Mandatory)
- Pre-natal educational activities (Mandatory)
- Mental health counseling
- Employment and Housing referrals

Village Academy Head Start Post Natal Services for Mothers:

- Infant automatically enrolled into Head Start program at Village Academy
- Referral services for employment, housing, education, food assistance, medical, mental health
- Mandatory volunteer hours for mother
- Mandatory attendance at parent conferences and parent policy meetings
- Mandatory student attendance

Village Academy Head Start services for children ages 0 – 4 yrs.

- Annual vision, hearing, dental, disability and social development screenings and referrals
- Consistent stimulating activities infants and toddlers
- DLM academic curriculum for 3 and 4 year students designed to enhance learning skills associated with kindergarten readiness by offering sequenced learning experiences.
- Vertical planning and dialogue amongst Pre-K and kindergarten teachers to maximize learning opportunities for Pre-K students.
- Integration of Pre-K students into kindergarten classrooms accelerating mastery of skills associated with kindergarten ready.
- Summer enrichment program for all Village Academy Head Start Pre-K students starting kindergarten.
- Other integrated “wrap-around” health, social, and community related services (i.e. BoysTown, Health Department, Beacon Program, Palm Beach State College, Department of Children & Families, Family Central, Cross Roads, Planned Parenthood, Literacy Coalition, Palm Beach County Head Start, City of Delray Beach, Delray Beach Housing Authority, Early Childhood Department – School District of Palm Beach)

Services for Kindergarten – Third Grade Students:

- Readers Workshop (Literature Based) reading program (90 minutes per day)
- Intensive remedial reading program 30 minutes per day
- Establishing summer remedial program for all K-3 students not reading “Above Grade Level”.
- Establishing mentoring network for students through community based organizations
- Establishing partnership with United Way and Kobacker Foundation to fund a Family Support Specialist for elementary students
- Per Choice School Contract, all parents required to attend at least 3 parent conferences and students must attend school.

- Partnership with Beacon program who offers extended care hours for students which also include (academic assistance, clubs, and other activities).

With Regard to Data:

Being that 2011-2012 represented the first year integrating Village Academy's Head Start program, sufficient data does not exist which will show kindergarten readiness rates for current kindergarten students. However, this data will exist by May 31st 2012. All current 4-year old (Pre-K) students will be administered the FAIR assessment and Running Reading Record (RRR) in May 2012 and again in August 2012. These assessments were not administered to Pre-K students prior to this school year. In addition, this information will represent baseline data, which will be compared to future data collected for the same kindergarten students and tracked through their 3rd grade year.