

Kindergarten Individual Development Survey Every Illinois Child Ready for Kindergarten

MOVING FORWARD AND TAKING ACTION: PLANNING FOR USE OF DAP AND PLAY-BASED APPROACHES TO LEARNING

AA #3041 Final Session





AGENDA

- •Where do we go from here? Moving forward (5 min)
- •Ideas from the field (25 min)
- Katie Kogut, Director of Early Childhood and Stephanie Steinbrecher, Assistant Principal, Early Childhood Center East Aurora District 131
 Peggy Ondera, Director of Early Learners Education Program and Emily Loney, Researcher at American Institutes for Research
- •Team Action Planning (30 min)

Resources to Use:

- B-3 Grade Self-Assessment and Action Planning Guide
- Action Planning form





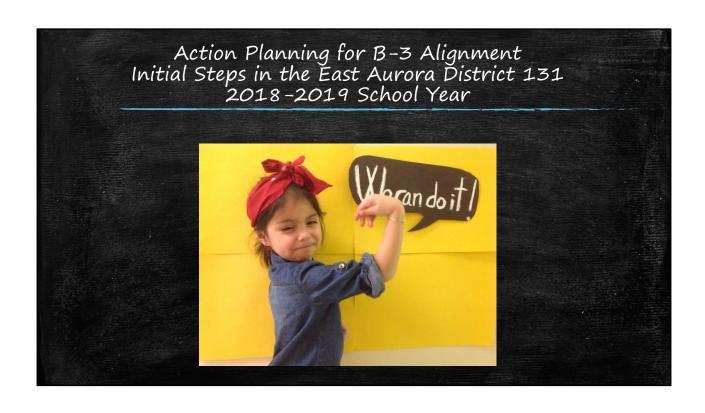


WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Action Plan Template









Building on District Strengths

- Recognized Blue Ribbon Affiliate for Birth to Three Home Visiting Program serving the district for over 20 years
- Gold Circle of Quality Preschool Program serving over 800 students annually in PFA, PFAE and PEG classrooms
- New district administrative team that recognizes that we are a preschool through high school district
- District priority goals focused on student outcomes aligned to RI 1, RI 2, W1 and MP 3







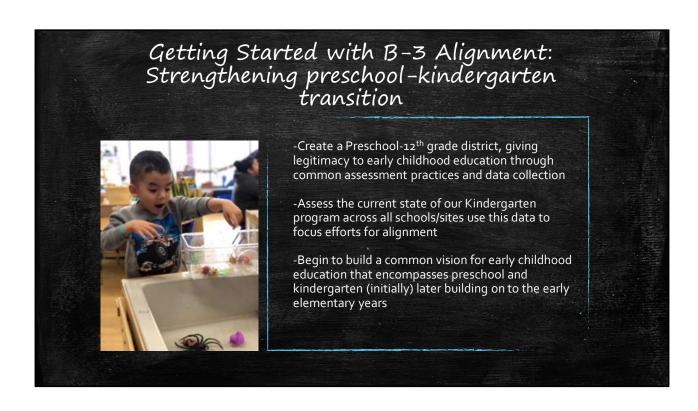
Choosing a Starting Point

"Quality instruction has particular significance during the preschool-3rd grade years, when children master foundational skills and concepts, develop attitudes toward school and form ideas about themselves as learners. Learning gaps emerge early, particularly among disadvantaged students. If not addressed early, the gaps can widen over the elementary grades."

-Leading Pre-K through 3rd Learning Communities, Competencies for Effective Principal Practice

"When the Kindergarten program is developmentally appropriate, children's transitions from preschool will be smoother and more successful."

-Carol Copple and Sue Bredekamp, Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Birth through Age 8



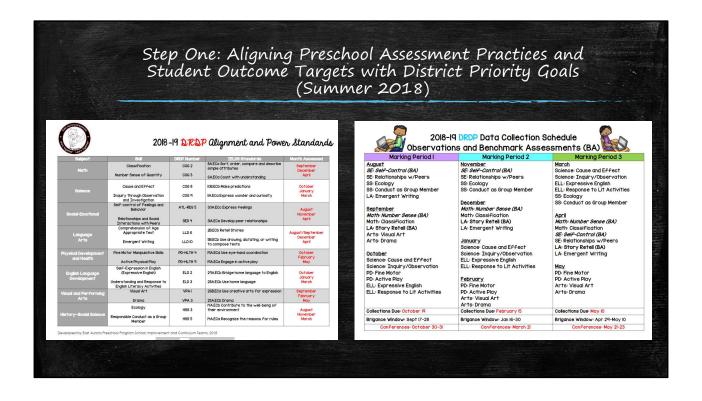
Previous Transition Support Provided to Entering Kindergarten Families:

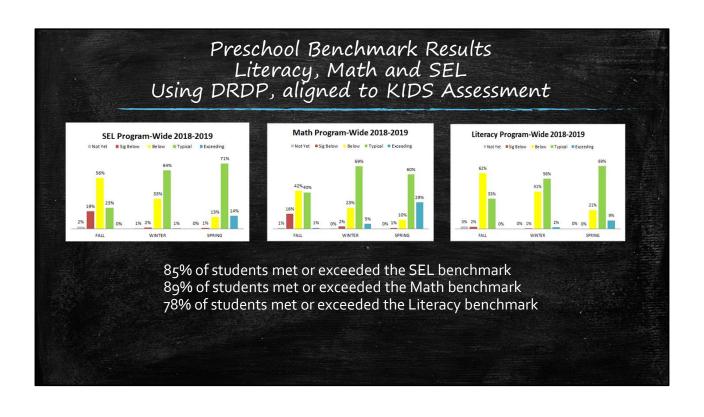
District Supports (Available to all entering Kindergarteners)

- Kindergarten Round Up Registration Events at all elementary schools, provide backpack with transition resources.
- Ready, Set, Go! Kindergarten preview event.
- Kindergarten Readiness backpacks given to each Kindergarten student at registration.

Preschool Supports (Available to preschool families)

- Parent education event every April on how to support your child as they transition.
- Teachers provide instruction on what the students can expect in Kindergarten and visit a classroom if available.
- Summer K transition program for preschool students that require extended learning opportunities.





Step Two: District-Wide State of Kindergarten Assessment

Key Findings District Administrators (August 2019)

-Lack of understanding of KIDS assessment and what the data is telling us

-Need for curricular alignment up to 3rd grade

-Common definition and understanding of Kindergarten readiness is needed. Key Findings Building Administrators (October 2019)

-Class size is too high for the age group

-KIDS assessment data not bring used, only completed for compliance purposes

-The SEL needs in K are great

-More curricular support is needed to meet the needs of the grade level Key Findings Teachers (February 2019)

-Need smaller class size, varied from 15-29 students/class

-Students need more recess

-Assessment practices are not developmentally appropriate

-Curriculum needs to be more developmentally appropriate

Step Three: Build a common vision for early childhood education that encompasses preschool and Kindergarten (initially) later building on to the early elementary years.

- Investigate the formation of a Kindergarten Leadership team with teachers, administration, board member and parents from across all K sites to develop a vision and mission for B-3 alignment. Fall 2019
- Develop an action plan to support the identified mission and vision statement that is aligned to the district strategic plan. Winter 2019
- Provide increased support for Kindergarten teachers with implementation of the SEL curriculum.
- Explore professional learning opportunities for the Board of Education and district administration on the need to strengthen our birth through third grade alignment and developmentally appropriate practices.

U-46 AND KINDERGARTEN: WHERE PLAY AND LEARNING CAN MEET

Peggy Ondera, Director of Early Learning Initiatives – U-46 Emily Loney, Researcher - American Institutes for Research





ACTION PLANNING

Resources to Use:

- B-3 Grade Self-Assessment and Action Planning Guide
- •Action Planning form
- Presenters from the field



