

# Assumption Parish Early Childhood Blueprint

2023-2024



## Analysis of Original State

Assumption Parish Early Childhood Community Network serves 5 school sites. This includes 10 four-year-old classrooms and 6 Head Start three-year-old classrooms. During the 2021-2022 school year, we served approximately 300 students. We currently offer universal Preschool for all four-year-old students and provide 102 Head Start seats for three-year-old students. We currently serve 16 Birth to two-year-olds through CCAP at our daycares. There are 2 Type III Early Learning Centers in Assumption Parish and 55 Family Child Care Providers who are registered for CACFP.

Our Network CLASS score falls in the high proficient range (5.41 out of 7). In the past four years, the Performance Profile Score has fluctuated, both increasing and decreasing by .12 or less. Our current score has decreased by .03 from our previous school year. All school sites' Performance Profile scores are in the Proficient or High-Proficient range.

Although our Emotional Support and Classroom Organization scores for all sites are in the High-Proficient or Excellent range, our Instructional Support scores fall in the Proficient and Approaching Proficient range for all sites. This indicates a need for additional professional development in these particular areas.

The strengths of our Community Network include the support of Assumption Parish School Board to braid funding to provide universal Pre-K for all four-year-old students in the parish.

We also recognize the need for professional development. With grant funds, we have planned and participated in intentional professional development regarding the implementation of our high quality, Tier I curriculum (Creative Curriculum) which includes numerous site visits from a Teaching Strategies Coach. We have also hired an additional instructional coach who is implementing Practice Based Coaching with targeted staff members. Staff members were chosen based off of CLASS scores. We have participated in the Early Childhood Inclusion Pilot and have contracted services with LASARD (Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities).

Assumption Parish is a member of Cohort 3 of the Ready Start Networks, which works to improve access to high-quality early childhood opportunities at the local level.

Our greatest network weakness falls in our lack of birth to three-year-old seats. We currently offer 102 three-year-old seats and 16 birth to two-year-old seats. Our network potentially has 150 students at each age band who would qualify for publicly funded childcare; therefore, we are grossly underserving this population of children.

Also, our 2 newly converted Types III Early Learning Centers are in need of extensive support. They are both struggling to sustain enrollment and stay adequately staffed. Because they are newly converted, they do not have any experience implementing a Tier I curriculum nor have experience with the CLASS observation tool. In addition to this, we still have classrooms in our school system in need of coaching support to reach a Proficient or above in Instructional Support on the CLASS observation tool.

A final weakness is our lack of community awareness of the work we are doing to ensure that all young learners entering Assumption Parish Kindergarten are healthy and are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be ready for kindergarten.

## **Guiding Statements**

### **Vision:**

***Assumption Parish will ensure that every young learner will enter kindergarten happy, healthy, and ready to succeed.***

### **Mission:**

**The mission of the Assumption Parish Network is to provide children, age birth to five, equitable access to high quality early learning programs that provide children a safe, nurturing, and stimulating learning environment that ensures all learners enter kindergarten ready to succeed.**

## **Strategic Plan**

### **GOAL 1:**

**Assumption Parish Network will increase community awareness of the need for early childhood education.**

- Maintain Network website
- Utilize social media
- Coordinate enrollment throughout the year
- Distribute newsletters
- Host family events

The goal will be measured and tracked by monitoring applications quarterly to see if social media and recruitment events are attracting more families to apply and by monitoring the number of participants at community outreach events and hits on social media.

**GOAL 2:**

**Assumption Parish Network will increase birth to age three access to quality early childhood care and education through public and private funding opportunities.**

- Establish new Type III Early Learning Centers in areas of the parish where needed
- Obtain data from Early Learning Centers to assess the capacity to serve more birth to three children
- Develop partnerships with Registered Family Child Care Providers to register with the state to accept CCAP families
- Provide wrap around services to students in Early Learning Centers. (physical and dental exams, up-to-date immunizations, family goal setting and mental health counseling)
- Provide support to meet the needs of special populations, including children with disabilities
- Convert Classroom space at Belle Rose Primary
- LENA Grow

The goal will be measured and tracked by monitoring the number of Type III Centers operating in the parish and the number of seats each center offers. This tracking will include the number of children with updated immunizations, physical and dental exams, and follow-up appointments on any referrals. Satisfaction surveys will be distributed yearly to staff and families for feedback and program operation planning.

**GOAL 3:**

**The quality of early childhood education in the network will improve by increasing 100% of classrooms to a rating of Proficient or above in Instructional Support on the CLASS observation tool.**

- Professional Development on curriculum provided by vendors
- Job embedded Professional Development provided via Google Meet
- In-person coaching
- Professional Development on CLASS
- Ensure Tier I curriculum materials are utilized with fidelity

The goal will be measured by analyzing Performance Profiles and teachers' CLASS scores to track the number of classrooms rated proficient or above in Instructional Support each semester.

**GOAL 4:**

**Assumption Parish Network will develop and implement a Leadership Cohort to empower program partners with useful business and education leadership practices to improve the quality of early care and education for children birth to age five.**

- ✓ Create and conduct a needs assessment with current business and educational leadership practices.
- ✓ Develop and implement a series of professional development sessions to present to program partners that includes best practices in improving both business acumen and early care and education leadership.
- ✓ Conduct satisfaction survey and evaluation.

The goal will be measured by a pre-assessment and post assessment of all participants. Each participant will also complete a satisfaction survey to see if the learning met their needs.