

2018

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

PROGRESS REPORT

COMMUNITY: Holland, Zeeland and Hamilton

PREPARED BY: Donna Gowry, MD, President/CEO Ready for School

READY 
FOR SCHOOL

2018 KINDERGARTEN READINESS PROGRESS REPORT

IN 2018, 66% OF OUR LOCAL CHILDREN WERE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN - UP 3% SINCE 2017 AND 23% SINCE 2009. READINESS GAINS WITH LIFELONG IMPACT.

This Kindergarten Readiness Progress Report aligns with the end of the traditional school year. Why? To collectively pause and reflect on what the year has meant for advancing school readiness. We asked local education, healthcare, community, and business leaders to assess work they've observed across the community.

What has been accomplished? Progress from data informed action. In addition to increased readiness to 66%, nine strategies increased this year. **What can we improve?** Two emerging areas have been added: Coordinated early childhood system strategies to decrease childhood abuse, neglect and adversity and Multi-year sustainable funding to support all children's early learning.

This report reflects children, families and our community growing stronger together. It is more than a report, it is a portrait of our shared commitment to elevate early learning.

EDUCATION PROGRESS	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Increasing access to high quality preschool			
Creating financially sustainable community preschool access			
Access to quality year-round early childhood learning			
Being a recognized and trusted referral resource			
Building bridges between pre-K environments and area schools			
Partnerships that result in sustained early childcare and preschool quality			
Strategies for reinforcing and sustaining readiness gains			
Elevating world class talent in early childhood education			

NOTES | Quote provided by Donna Lowry, MD:

"As the traditional school year comes to a close, Ready for School is focused on getting kids ready for kindergarten next fall. Why? The key to advancing school readiness for at risk children is improving access to high-quality early childhood education programs year-round."

COMMUNITY IMPACT

DOING WELL

MAKING
PROGRESS

NOT YET

Using local data and outcomes to guide our work to areas of greatest need

Improving access to and quality of early learning opportunities for all children

Catalyzing new gap filling programs

Reach Out & Read: 50+ local physicians, PAs, and nurse practitioners = **16,598** child well visits + building family libraries with **15,513** books

Community-wide focus on early literacy, social-emotional readiness & the transition to kindergarten

Building an equity framework for community readiness

Coordinated early childhood system strategies to decrease childhood abuse, neglect and adversity

Notes | Quote provided by a local school superintendent:

"The impact led by this organization has increased Kindergarten readiness by 23%. Such consistent upswing provides an overall higher quality of life for future generations that will live, work, and raise families throughout West Michigan, bringing hope to area businesses and boosting our local economy."

COLLABORATION

DOING WELL

MAKING
PROGRESS

NOT YET

Multi-year sustainable funding to support all children's early learning of children prior to kindergarten

Leveraging systems and building partnerships that model smart use of resources

On-the-ground alignment with community partners leading to innovative solutions

Turn research results into best practices that create models for sustaining an increase in school readiness

Public/private partnerships that promote equity, integrate efforts and engage across sectors

Notes | Quote provided by a local business executive and Ready for School Board member:

"The 21st century is not in the distant future - it is today. We do not have a moment to lose in preparing our students, our workforce and our community, to compete and to succeed!"

PRESIDENT/CEO COMMENTS:



As we embark on another summer of impact, we're reminded how a change in season brings opportunity to influence growth. Children's health and development are cultivated by schools, families and communities - we're all in this together.

Making school readiness a community priority places our collective future into our own hands. Thank you for believing in the value of every child's potential.

What's next? Ready for School has provided our community a blueprint to increase school readiness. The path forward from promising ideas to sustainable solutions will require strong partnerships and a sufficient investment of local resources.

Thank you! Together we're making progress. The work continues.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Collaboration is at the core of our work to **prepare children for success** in school and **transform futures**. We thank the individual donors, corporations and organizations that supported Ready for School's work in 2018. Investment from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided a 2018 reserve for innovation in year round learning.



\$617,338

2018 SOURCES OF FUNDING

21% Foundations 30% Individuals
38% Corporations 10% In-Kind

\$817,833

2018 EXPENDITURES

78% Programs & Services
14% Management & General
8% Fundraising