

2019 KINDERGARTEN READINESS PROGRESS REPORT

POTENTIAL IS EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS A POPULATION. **OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.** READY FOR SCHOOL PROVIDES COMMUNITIES WITH A BLUEPRINT TO POTENTIAL - **INCREASING KINDERGARTEN READINESS FROM 43% IN 2009 TO 70% IN 2019.**

In the last decade, we've learned there isn't one intervention or a single solution to a complex social issue. But we know what progress looks like: Building equity through preschool scholarships during the traditional school year, a summer kindergarten readiness camp, professional development of early childhood educators, and providing pediatric medical providers with a tool for increasing literacy and connections are examples of what it is making the difference for children and families in our communities.

AN INVESTMENT IN FAMILY-CENTERED PROGRESS: **READY FOR SCHOOL IS PAYING DIVIDENDS.**

EDUCATION	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Increasing access to high quality preschool		X	
Financially sustainable community preschool access		X	
Access to high-quality year-round early childhood learning that includes a focus on social-emotional skill development		X	
Being a recognized and trusted referral resource	X		
Equipping children and families for a better transition to kindergarten by bridging pre-K environments and area schools	X		
Professional learning for early childhood educators to elevate and sustain quality in childcare and preschool		X	
Strategies for reinforcing and sustaining readiness gains		X	
Elevating world class talent in early childhood education		X	

NOTES:

Kindergarten readiness is a powerful predictor of future success. When children enter kindergarten ready to learn, 82% master basic skills by age 11, compared to 45% for children who aren't ready. Children with access to high-quality early learning experiences make cognitive and social gains - benefits that last a lifetime.

COMMUNITY IMPACT	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Local data guiding our work to areas of greatest need	X		
Improving access to high-quality early learning opportunities for all children	X		
Catalyzing new gap filling programs		X	
Linking literacy and health through trusted healthcare providers	X		
Community-wide focus on early literacy, social-emotional readiness & the transition to kindergarten	X		
Building an equity framework for community readiness		X	
Raising community-level awareness of the value of investing in early childhood	X		

NOTES:

Impact is greatest where people, place, and potential intersect with core strategies. In 2019, Ready for School's strategic focus linking literacy and health through trusted healthcare providers garnered national recognition by making us the Reach Out and Read West Michigan Affiliate. This is a win earned by our community!

COLLABORATION	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Leveraging systems and building partnerships that model smart use of resources	X		
Aligning with community partners on innovative solutions	X		
Using research to establish and implement best practices for sustainable increase in community level school readiness	X		
Public/private partnerships that promote equity, integrate efforts and engage across sectors		X	
Elevating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a community issue	X		

NOTES:

Together we are testing solutions that accelerate progress! Advancing evidence based early care and learning initiatives across home, community, and school.

PRESIDENT/CEO COMMENTS:



Last fall the class of 2033 started school prepared to succeed because of this community's decision to invest in them before they were even born. In 2019, 70% of our incoming Kindergarten students met the benchmark criteria for readiness - up from 43% in 2009.

The change in trajectory from 2009 equates to 4,000 more children equipped to realize their full potential. It didn't happen by accident.

Strategies outlined in this report were devised in 2017 guided by local data revealing trends, gaps, and greatest need for our intervention. The story in 2019 is that informed action delivers readiness gains. We celebrate 70% knowing the hard work there is ahead of us to reach the next 30%.

Long term success requires alignment between municipalities, education, healthcare, and business to build child infrastructure. Ready for School calls it *KID*rastructure. Commitment from donors, partners, and champions who see the *BY* potential in all small children is transforming children's lives and the future we share. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Collaboration is at the core of our work to **prepare children for success** in school and **transform futures** through the **power of innovation**. We thank the individual donors, foundations, corporations and organizations that supported Ready for School's work in 2019.



\$639,355

2019 SOURCES OF FUNDING

29% Foundations 40% Individuals
24% Corporations 7% In-Kind

\$642,234

2019 EXPENDITURES

80% Programs & Services
13% Management & General
7% Fundraising

2019

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

PROGRESS REPORT

COMMUNITY: *Holland, Zeeland and Hamilton*

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

