Aurora Public Schools

Early Childhood Education

Presented to:
District Advisory Accountability Committee

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Agenda

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The Importance of Early Intervention

• The first five years of life are critical to the academic development of a child. It is within this time frame children develop basic learning patterns and abilities that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

• A child’s ability to acquire oral language is the foundation for developing strong literacy skills. Oral language development is the key to reading and writing success.

• A great deal of what children learn in life is derived from reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is through these everyday, rich experiences that children gain the oral language they need to be strong readers and learners in the future.
Benefits of Early Childhood Education

Best Practice

• Children who attend high-quality preschools:
  - are less likely to be retained in the primary grades
  - have higher graduation rates from high school
  - have fewer behavioral problems
    (International Reading Association: Preschool Literacy Collection)

• Other benefits to children:
  - significantly higher oral language development at the end of preschool
  - score higher on nonverbal intellectual performance assessments
  - receive special education services for fewer number of years
  - higher performance scores on standardized achievement tests at age 14
  - nearly twice as likely to be economically self-sufficient by age 19
    (Perry Preschool Project, reviewed 2002)

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State Support for Early Childhood Education

Former Governor Bill Ritter organized the P-20 Education Council to review Colorado’s education system from preschool to graduate school

- Assigned P-3 Sub Committee
- Adoption of Preschool State Standards
- Early Childhood School Readiness Commission
- Developed Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC)

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ECE Expansion History

- Expansion 2008-
  - CPP allocated slots from 795 to 1287

- August 2009 –
  - Opened Jamaica Child Dev. Center

- Expansion 2009 –
  - CPP allocated slots from 1287 to 1368

- August 2011 –
  - Opened Meadowood Child Dev. Center

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Current ECE Programming

• Provide quality preschool instruction to 1905 3 & 4 year old age students including CPP (1368), ESS (503) and Tuition (34) enrollments.
• Offer multiple locations throughout APS District and Community
• Assess student learning through an observational assessment system Teaching Strategies GOLD.
• Support Teachers and Administrators with on-going professional learning

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Access and Qualifications

Funded preschool program access has expanded to:
✓ Colorado Preschool Program
✓ Special Education Preschool
✓ Tuition Based Preschool
✓ Title I Preschool
✓ Child Care Assistance Program

Qualifications are:
✓ Children must be 3 or 4 years old on or before Oct 1st
✓ Families must attend a screening for program eligibility
✓ Following student placement, students must be registered as an APS student

Note: Colorado Preschool Program has limited space due to funding
ECE Classroom Locations 2011-12

• 3 APS Childhood Development Centers
  ❖ Laredo Child Development Center
  ❖ Jamaica Child Development Center
  ❖ Meadowood Child Development Center

• 7 Community Child Care Centers
  ▪ Beck Recreation Center
  ▪ Lowry Center
  ▪ Summer Valley Recreation Center
  ▪ Village Green Recreation Center
  ▪ The Children's Academy
  ▪ Little Angel's Child Care
  ▪ Picken's Kids Tech

22 APS Elementary Schools

• Altura
• Arkansas
• Boston
• Century
• Clyde Miller
• Crawford
• Dalton (1.5)
• Dartmouth
• Fulton
• Iowa
• Jewell
• Montview
• Murphy Creek

• Parklane (2)
• Peoria
• Sable
• Side Creek
• Sixth Ave.
• Vaughn
• Virginia Court
• Vista PEAK (3)
• Yale

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Curriculum

• Designed for children ages 3 to 5

• Addresses all aspects of teaching

• Defines
  • What to teach
  • Why content and skills are appropriate expectations
  • Where, when and how to teach effectively

• Links assessment to plan and guide instruction
Preschool incorporates a variety of structures and supports that align with instructional practices in K-12

- Use of story journals to represent ideas through pictures and drawings and the ability to talk about those ideas and pictures
- Emergent Writing and Reading assessments given 3 times per year
- Use of Infinite Campus to record assessment data
- Ongoing monitoring of student progress including the data collection and reporting online through TeachingStrategies.com
ECE Funding Sources

- Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) funding is based on
  - Colorado Department of Education (CDE) allocated annual slots & State PPR

- Tuition Based Preschool (TBP) funding is based on
  - APS District Location Availability/Private Pay

- Special Education Preschool funding is based on
  - Federal/State allocations

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Vista 2015
ECE Support

Qualistar rated preschool classrooms support Vista 2015 goal of Accelerated learning and reduce learning gaps

GOAL 1: Accelerate learning and reduce learning gaps

- **Objective 2**: Every student will be at grade level in reading, writing and math within 5 years (or within 3 years when entering at 1st grade) of continuous attendance in APS

- **Action**: All district preschool classrooms will earn Qualistar’s highest rating by 2015

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ECE Qualistar Ratings

• 27 total preschool sites
  ✓ over the last 3 years, 8 preschool sites received the top rating of 4 stars

• ECE will have 5 additional sites rated in 2011-12

• The annual cost to rate preschool classrooms is $1200.00

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P-2 Alignment Initiative supports Vista 2015 goals for increased student achievement and graduation rates in high school.

GOAL 1: Accelerate learning and reduce learning gaps

• **Objective 2:** Increase the percentage of students achieving one or more year’s growth in reading, writing, and math by at least 3%

• **Objective 3:** Close achievement gaps where they exist

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GOAL: To align curriculum and precise instruction through embedded P-2 professional learning

- Build a bridge between preschool and kindergarten
  Increase opportunities for vertical team planning in order for each grade to build knowledge of expectations for work in previous and subsequent grades

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P-2 Curriculum & Instructional Alignment cont.

• Promote alignment and coherence of precise instruction based on the essential components of early literacy development. These components lay the foundation for learning the component skills of literacy:

1) Oral Language
2) Comprehension
3) Alphabet Knowledge/Print Knowledge
4) Phonemic Awareness
5) Vocabulary

• On-going professional learning for teachers, principals and directors

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P-2 Alignment
Three-Year Plan

• YEAR ONE
  ➢ Focus on Preschool & Kindergarten

• YEAR TWO
  ➢ Focus on Kindergarten & First Grade

• YEAR THREE
  ➢ Focus on First Grade & Second Grade

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