

Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for ESE

Early Intervention and Pre-K ESE Update 2019-2020





MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

where learning begins...

Prekindergarten Programs

VPK

Pre-K ESE

Head Start/
Early Head Start



Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)

- ▶ IDEA – Part C
 - ▶ Infants and Toddlers, ages birth through 36 months
- ▶ IDEA – Part B
 - ▶ Children ages 3 to 21 years of age.



Early Steps

- ▶ Florida's early intervention system
- ▶ Serves eligible infants and toddlers (0-36 months) with developmental delays, disabilities or at risk for developmental delays
- ▶ Referrals
 - ▶ Initiated by physician, parent, and/or programs for children under 3 (i. e., Early Head Start)
- ▶ Local Early Steps agencies
 - ▶ University of Miami Department of Pediatrics
North Dade Early Steps Program (305)929-8705
 - ▶ Benchmark Human Services – Early Steps
Southernmost Coast (305) 243-6660

Early Steps, B-2 Programs, & M-DCPS

- ▶ Joint contract with M-DCPS, B-2 Agencies, and Early Steps
- ▶ Participating B-2 Agencies
 - ▶ UCO
 - ▶ ARC
 - ▶ Easter Seals
 - ▶ Debbie School
 - ▶ Linda Ray
 - ▶ Miami Lighthouse for the Blind (B-2 and PreK)
- ▶ Parents can opt to continue in B-2 until the end of the school year in which the child turns 3
- ▶ Serving up to 467 students

Early Steps to M-DCPS Transition

- ▶ Prior to child's third birthday:
 - ▶ Early Steps completes exit evaluations
 - ▶ Works with M-DCPS Early Steps Transition Specialists to transition students to Part B
- ▶ FLDOE requires M-DCPS to staff all eligible students on or before their third birthday (Indicator 12)
- ▶ Approximately 1,400 students referred and verified
- ▶ Eligibility/Ineligibility for Services
 - ▶ Children eligible for Part B services receive services through M-DCPS and may be placed within one of our Pre-K ESE programs
 - ▶ Students not eligible for Part B services are referred to M-DCPS programs (Head Start or VPK) or other community programs such as Early Discovery.



Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Systems (FDLRS)

- ▶ Children ages 3-5 exhibiting delays or disabilities that did not previously go through Early Steps, go through FDLRS Child Find
- ▶ FDLRS Child Find in coordination with M-DCPS, locates children who are potentially eligible for services under IDEA and links them with needed services.
- ▶ 3-and 4-year-old children enrolled in an M-DCPS Pre-K program with suspected disabilities or at risk for developmental delays undergo the Child Find process through their school's support team (SST/MTSS)



Prekindergarten ESE

- ▶ 110 schools
- ▶ 215 classrooms
- ▶ 2019-2020
 - Opened 9 new classrooms
 - Including 5 new Inclusion classrooms
 - Expansion based on needs, disability, and generated allocations



Models for Pre-K ESE

- ▶ Walk-in Speech/Language Therapy
- ▶ Consult in VPK/Head Start
- ▶ Inclusion
- ▶ LEAP
- ▶ Reverse Mainstream Half Day/Full Day



Models for Pre-K ESE

- ▶ Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ▶ Deaf –Hard of Hearing
- ▶ Intellectual Disabilities
- ▶ Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care
- ▶ Hospital Homebound Services



Pre-K ESE by Numbers

- ▶ **28%** increase of student enrollment with disabilities served over the past three years.
- ▶ **3,160** cases staffed during 2018-2019*
- ▶ **2,600** Pre-K ESE students enrolled during 2018-2019*
- ▶ **1,100** Role Model students served in Pre-K ESE classes*
- ▶ **140** Consult students served in VPK classes*
- ▶ **1,300** Transition to Kindergarten meetings*
- ▶ **37%** Least Restrictive Environment; SEA Target 48%
- ▶ **86%** Parental Involvement; SEA Target 85%
- ▶ **100%** Part C Children Eligible for Part B with developed and implemented IEPs by third birthday; SEA Target: 100%

*Approximate numbers from 2018-2019



Curriculum

- ▶ High/Scope Curriculum
- ▶ TEACCH
- ▶ Wright Skills
- ▶ Conscious Discipline
- ▶ Waterford

Supports and Services

- ▶ Assistive Technology
- ▶ Professional Development
- ▶ Parent Education



Goals for 2019-2020

- ▶ Maximize Inclusion
- ▶ Fill ALL available seats
- ▶ Expand parental supports/resources
 - ❖ “Positive Parenting Practices for Young Children with Autism and Other Developmental Delays” 8 Weeks in English/Spanish
 - ❖ Implementing Survey for topics of interest to parents



School and Community Engagement

- ▶ Everywhere Learning Campaign
- ▶ Read for the Record
- ▶ Early Childhood Week
- ▶ OAT Family Harvest Festival
- ▶ Early Intervention and Pre-K ESE Subcommittee
- ▶ Early Childhood Task Force
- ▶ Quarterly meeting with Region Directors
- ▶ Various speech and language awareness activities in May



Transition to Kindergarten

- ▶ Transition to Kindergarten
 - Meetings begin in March
 - Identification of students requiring a Re-evaluation





Every child
is a different
kind of flower.

All together
they make
this world
a beautiful
garden.





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