



United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

LIVE UNITED

**United
Way**



Our Problem in Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties

Nearly 16 years ago, we surveyed multiple school districts and Pre-K providers to better understand the largest obstacles they are facing towards preparing our early learners for success in school. They agreed overwhelmingly in the following issues:



- ❑ Different kindergarten expectations for each district and even each kindergarten classroom
- ❑ No curriculum alignment between non-district pre-kindergarten and kindergarten
- ❑ Little or no collaboration between school districts and the early care community
- ❑ No truly regional early childhood education network



Due to the lack of coordination in our region, United Way has taken the lead role in coordinating efforts towards eliminating these barriers and giving our youngest learners the best chance at a successful future.

What We Have Done to Change the Narrative!

1. Organize and mobilize education communities throughout the region

- Pre-K Transition Program
- Early Childhood Education Roundtable
- Companies in the Classroom
- Raising Readers Parent Literacy Clubs
- Pre-K Vision Screening Program
- BookStops
- Books for Babies

2. Provide guidance, collaboration opportunities and coordinate shared best practices throughout the network

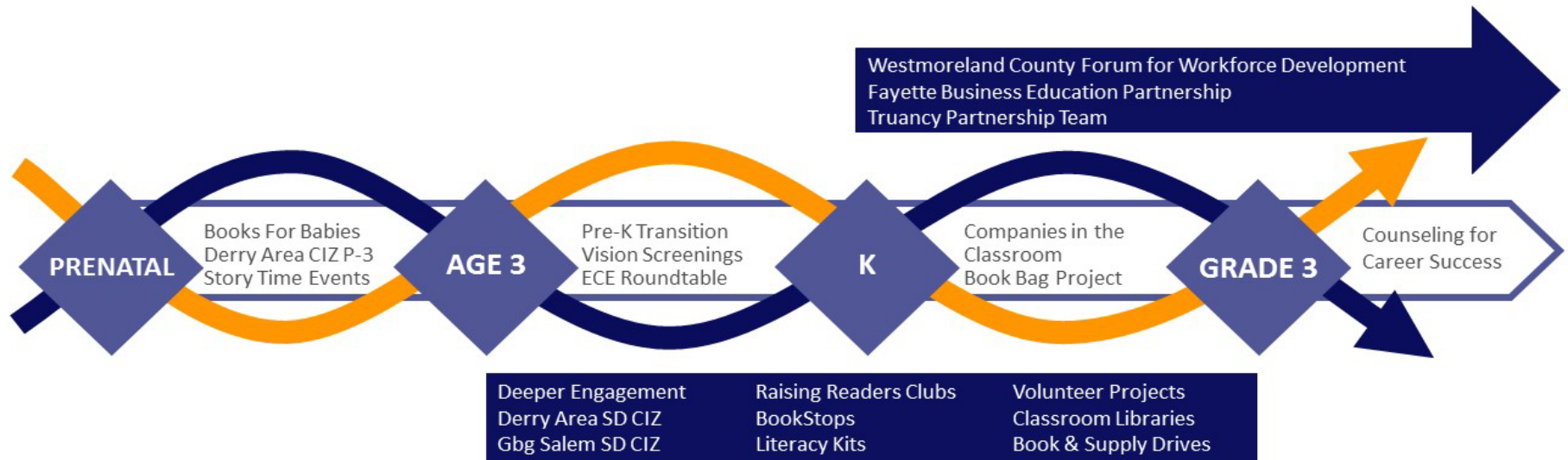
- Deeper Engagement Model – Derry Area, Greensburg Salem and Laurel Highlands School Districts
- Added Jeannette City, Jefferson Morgan, Mt. Pleasant Area, New Kensington Arnold, Uniontown Area and Yough with targeted work over last two school years
- Transition team meetings
- Annual Transition Conferences
 - 8th Annual in Fayette on May 11, 2018
 - 16th Annual in Westmoreland on June 12, 2018
- Design and implement targeted approaches to each communities unique problems

3. Curriculum alignment between pre-kindergarten and kindergarten

- Handwriting Without Tears Project
- Scholastic classroom libraries
- High quality classroom resources

4. Coordinate cross sector professional development opportunities

- Handwriting Without Tears
- WQED/PBS Kids
- Lakeshore Learning
- Local transition teams



School Readiness Process

Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Region



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania
*serving Allegheny, Westmoreland,
Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties*



1 PARTNER IDENTIFICATION

Analyze socioeconomic, economic and other community data to identify need and recruit motivated partners. Engage early care and school administrators within each community to improve upon existing or establish key relationships. Facilitate initial meetings to enhance these partnerships.



2 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Act as the liaison between schools and the early care community. Research and implement evidence based projects and leverage resources to address specific literacy needs. Identify funding, purchase resources and organize professional development opportunities through the year.



4 EVALUATION

Complete thorough data analysis and communicate findings to all key stakeholders. Utilize evaluation results for project replication and refinement moving forward.



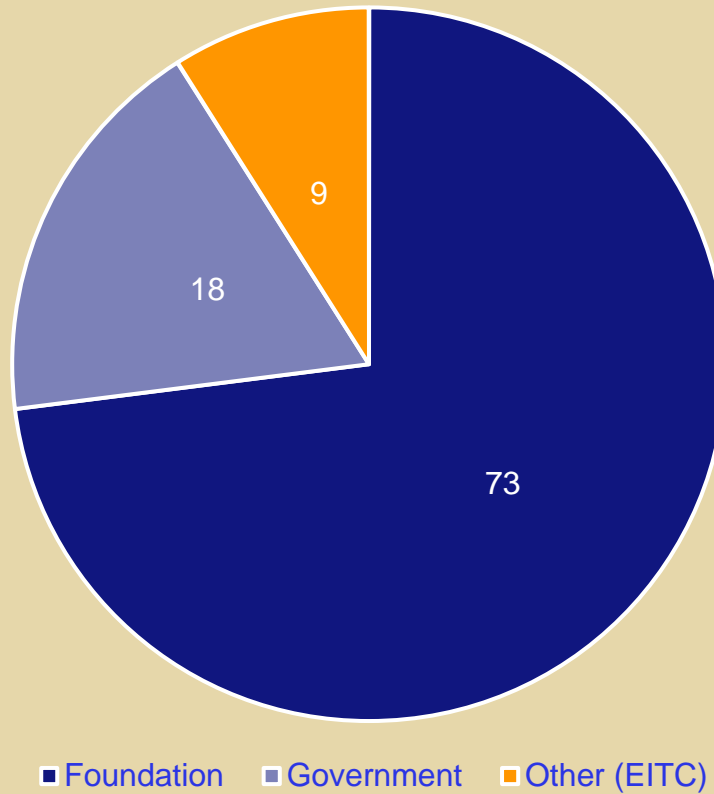
3 DATA COLLECTION

Create and manage data sharing agreements as needed. Collect school and early care data at key points throughout the year.



Our Funding Community in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Funding Breakdown 2017-2018





United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong



Results: 3rd Grade PSSA Testing Results		13-14**	14-15	15-16	16-17
County	Service Area Results	76%	66%	68%	66%
	Westmoreland County	80%	71%	72%	73%
	Fayette County	63%	51%	54%	53%
	Greene County (Jefferson Morgan)	71%	49%	65%	57%
	Pennsylvania Average	70%	62%	61%	65%
District	Fayette County				
	Albert Gallatin Area	67%	50%	58%	55%
	Brownsville Area	59%	47%	37%	46%
	Connellsville Area	58%	46%	52%	52%
	Frazier	80%	56%	64%	65%
	Laurel Highlands (Deeper Engagement)	63%	60%	61%	62%
	Uniontown Area	60%	51%	52%	64%
	Greene County				
	Jefferson-Morgan	71%	49%	65%	57%
	Westmoreland County				
	Belle Vernon Area	71%	64%	67%	68%
	Burrell	81%	68%	72%	81%
	Derry Area (Deeper Engagement)	76%	61%	66%	79%
	Franklin Regional	88%	78%	79%	88%
	Greater Latrobe	79%	73%	78%	85%
	Greensburg Salem (Deeper Engagement)	77%	71%	75%	74%
	Hempfield Area School District	86%	73%	74%	79%
	Jeannette City	65%	48%	50%	65%
	Kiski Area	88%	80%	70%	74%
	Ligonier Valley	80%	75%	73%	70%
	Monessen City	53%	45%	45%	46%
Mount Pleasant Area	79%	70%	69%	66%	
New Kensington Arnold	68%	45%	45%	58%	
Norwin	85%	78%	82%	89%	
Penn-Trafford	88%	82%	87%	90%	
Southmoreland	75%	70%	73%	76%	
Yough	76%	69%	71%	75%	

* Reflects the calendar year

** Pennsylvania Department of Education significantly restructured the testing format to reflect the newly

Our Outcomes

1. Developed multi county collaboration teams

- 27 school districts
- 90+ preschool and pre-k classrooms (Increasing Annually)
- Intermediate Unit 1 and 7
- Westmoreland and Fayette County Library Networks

2. Pre-K Transition Program – 3 year analysis

- Adult caregivers served through transition activities increased 23%
- Children served through transition activities increased by 21%

3. Kindergarten screening data – 3 year analysis

- Number of children attending pre-kindergarten services has increase by 8%
- Number of children showing proficiency on kindergarten screening tools increased 14%
- Number of children screened has increased by 7%

4. Raising Readers Parent Literacy Clubs – 3 year analysis

- 48% increase in the number of Raising Readers Club participants Pre-K through 3rd grade

5. Pre-K Vision Screening Program – 5 year analysis

- Over 10,000 3, 4 and 5 year olds have been screened for potential vision issues

6. Books For Babies – 5 year analysis

- Over 10,000 early literacy packages have been distributed

7. Initial DIBELS assessment data (Includes 6 elementary schools for 2016-2017)

- 70% of children at or above benchmark at the end of the academic year
- 27% increase over beginning of the year DIBELS data
- 18 elementary schools for 2017-2018

8. Deeper Engagement – 3 year analysis

- **Initiated B.U.G data binders for Pre-K centers (Derry Area School District)**
- **Completed beginning, middle and end of year benchmark assessments on over 150 Pre-K children annually (Derry Area School District)**
- **190 families received in home services through Teaching Tiny Trojans (Derry Area School District)**
- **260 families participated in story time events (Derry Area School District)**
- **240 families have received Welcome Baby Packages from the district and receive a high quality book every other month for 2 years (Derry Area School District)**
- **Created Mini Mighty Mustang Program mentor program (Laurel Highlands School District)**
- **Created Raising Readers Clubs from Pre-K through 3rd Grade (Greensburg Salem School District)**
- **Implemented Handwriting Without Tears in over 90 Pre-K classrooms and 50 Kindergarten classrooms throughout the region (8 School Districts)**

Next Steps



1. Replicate Deeper Engagement programming with new communities within our service area
2. Strengthen existing relationships and create new partnerships within the early childhood education community to increase targeted program offerings throughout the region
3. Revamp our database to enhance data collection efforts

