

Wythe County Pre-K Partnership Profile

The Need

- It is estimated that 12% of children in the Wythe County community will not be enrolled in a Pre-K program in the 2017-2018 school year. Using the average Pre-K Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility numbers of the past two years, it was determined that the 12% unserved population represents approximately 20 at-risk children who will not attend Pre-K without additional recruitment efforts.
- The Wythe County Pre-K Partnership (WC-PKP) will target at-risk children in Wythe County who will be four years old on or before September 30th of each school year. They aim to serve approximately 80 at-risk students in WCPS Pre-K classrooms, approximately 50 at-risk students in Head Start Center classrooms and approximately 50 at-risk children in private settings.

Project Goals

- WC-PKP proposes to expand the opportunity of high quality Pre-K programs to all at-risk four-year olds in the jurisdiction of Wythe County. To successfully serve all at-risk children in a high-quality, comprehensive Pre-K program WC-PKP will identify and recruit unserved at-risk four-year old children and provide access to a high-quality Pre-K program including wrap-around services to the children and their families for the 2016-17 school year. WC-PKP plans to also ensure that all existing Pre-K programs in daycare, church and school settings are of the highest quality to prepare Wythe County's children for kindergarten and beyond.

Project Plan

WC-PKP plans to achieve these goals by:

- Implementing Frog Street Pre-K, a common research-based curriculum, which is aligned with Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning. Additionally, providing training and in-class support to successfully implement the program at each partner center.
- Promoting all partner centers and expanding their recruitment efforts by advertising partner centers and their services through brochures, newspapers, and local radio stations.
- Ensuring that all at-risk children receive the same quality of service regardless of the center they attend by strengthening quality of current Pre-K services offered at partner centers through community coordination of funding and services
- Providing a Virginia certified teacher and paraprofessional during the 2016-17 school year at the Wytheville Child Development Center to help address the issue of students who have been on a waiting list.
- Collaborating with community agencies to provide comprehensive wrap-around services for four-year old children and their families

Evaluation Plan

- WC-PKP will use the Virginia QRIS Curriculum and Assessment Checklist, the Environment Rating Scale Self-Study, and the Pre-K CLASS. Additionally, Pre-K PALS student data from WCPS Pre-K classrooms will be compared with partner center data to help evaluate each classroom's level of effectiveness and quality of instruction.
- Each partner center will collect and share de-identified at-risk eligibility data for all children participating in the center's Pre-K program. Data will include the requirements of VPI eligibility (e.g. income, homelessness) and other factors (e.g. current IEP). Fall and Spring Pre-K PALS scores of all participating students will be collected.
- WC-PKP will also evaluate the implementation of the Frog Street Pre-K program.