



## Oak Park Integrated Early Childhood System • Key Outcomes and Benchmarks

As part of the strategic planning process engaged in during 2008-2009, the Collaboration adopted benchmarks for the Oak Park Early Childhood System. The benchmarks were chosen because they are relevant, measurable and provide data that can be used and acted upon to further system development and better prepare children for success in school and in life. The benchmarks allow for targets and dates to be specified. The Collaboration will define these measures in increasing increments, based on funding levels. Upon establishing a baseline, all benchmarks can be read as: *By Year Y, X% of children will...*

### **Child Outcomes:** Every child arrives at kindergarten healthy, safe, ready to succeed, eager to learn.

#### *Benchmarks:*

- Children identified through screening as needing assessment and/or services receive them
- Children in Oak Park Preschool for All and Head Start programs demonstrate age-appropriate proficiency in each domain of development in accordance with the Illinois Early Learning Standards
- Children entering kindergarten demonstrate age-appropriate proficiency in the kindergarten readiness assessment administered by District 97

### **Service Delivery Outcomes:** Parents and children receive the early childhood care and education and parenting education and support services they need.

#### *Benchmarks:*

- Kindergarten students with Free or Reduced Price Lunch assistance have a history of participation in Preschool for All/ Head Start, a National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) accredited program or a program meeting the Illinois Quality Rating System of 3 or 4
- Teen parents and families receiving All Kids Level 1 health insurance for their child under age 3 receive referral to intensive parent education program
- Referred parents participate in the intensive parent education program
- Kindergarten/1st grade students with Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) have documentation of receiving services in early childhood (if they lived in Oak Park during their early childhood years)

### **System Outcomes:** Oak Park has a high quality, coordinated early childhood system.

#### *Benchmarks:*

- Families with children under age five are included in the voluntary database and receive developmental information and an early childhood resource directory
- Teachers and directors in Oak Park early childhood programs have above minimum state educational requirements for their role
- Teachers and child care providers have more than the state-mandated 15 documented hours of continuing professional development each year
- Preschools and child care centers and homes are engaged in the Illinois Quality Rating System, and improve their scores each year.



# Collaboration for Early Childhood

## Integrated Early Childhood System

### Early Detection Screenings

- Establish system to assure all children birth to five receive periodic developmental screening
- Conduct vision and hearing screenings at preschools
- Implement follow-up processes to ensure all children needing assessments and services receive them
- Maintain accurate, up-to-date inventory of services and disseminate to all providers and families

### Parent Information and Support

- Provide information about child development and services to every parent
- Offer every at-risk family intensive parent education/support
- Make available group support and periodic visits to all families
- Publish Early Childhood Resource Directory bi-annually

### Professional Development

- Provide training programs in best practice and career development advice to preschool and child care staff
- Coach centers on quality improvement and quality them for state recognition and financial incentives
- Provide leadership coaching to center directors
- Develop loan/scholarship program for college credit and training programs
- Offer annual symposium on critical early childhood issues

### Public Preschool Coordination

- Coordinate outreach for, and referral to, all programs for at-risk children
- Lead curriculum planning, instructional improvement, and unified assessment by programs to ensure high quality
- Work with all early education providers to establish community expectations for incoming kindergarteners

### Voluntary Database

Includes all children birth to five to monitor program participation, service usage and program impact

Includes staff of early care and education programs to monitor staff qualifications, professional development activities and participation in Illinois State quality enhancement programs to monitor impact of programs