



Franklin Early Childhood Network Blueprint

It's easier and less expensive to provide access to quality early care and education right from the start. Doing so ensures that our youngest learners have brain building experiences that prepare them for school and lifelong success.

-Amy Clancy, Director of Early Childhood Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana



Franklin Early Childhood Network is a program of the Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana.

Introduction

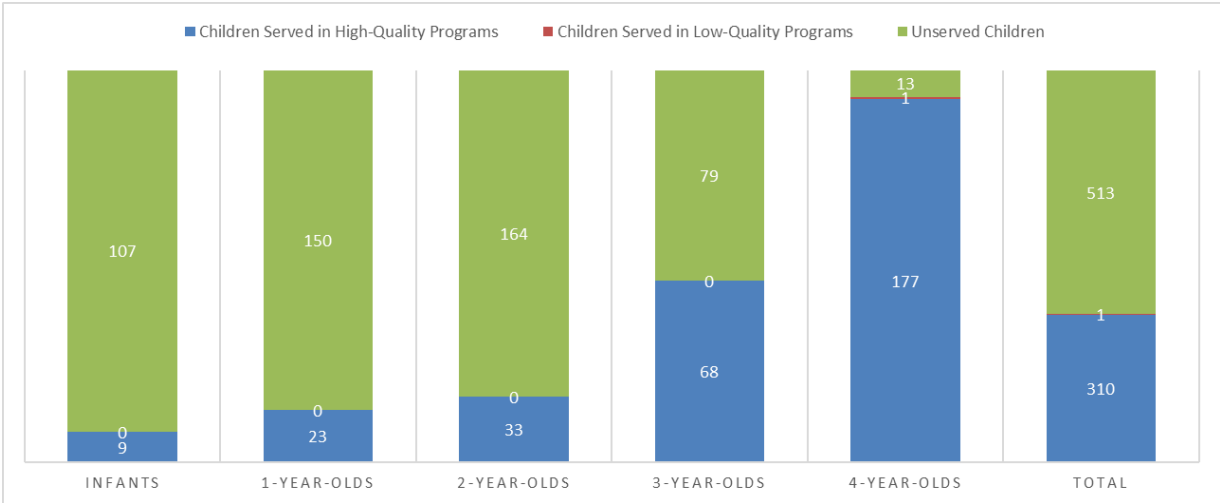
Franklin Early Childhood Network is a coalition of early care and education providers working together to provide high quality early learning experiences for the parish's youngest learners. The coalition is comprised of early care and education programs; Head Start, school system, family childcare providers that have opted for academic approval, and childcare committed to creating and implementing a unique vision for early childhood. The network is driven by the unique needs of the community to improve opportunities and inspire change for children birth to five.

The future of Franklin Parish is dependent on the success of its children and families. Together we have an opportunity to transform the future of our parish in one generation. Access to quality early care and education programs ensure parents keep working or complete higher education and that children are on track to a brighter future.

Research on early brain development indicates that 90% of brain development occurs by age four. That means if we wait to provide quality early care and education until age four when most children arrive at preschool, we have missed the most critical period of human development.

Franklin Parish has critical gaps in access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners. Data collected during the 2022-2023 academic year indicated that 500 children ages birth to three did not have access to quality programs. Increased access to funded, quality early care and education is a necessity to ensure our local economy thrives today and tomorrow.

Access to Quality Early Childhood by Age Group 2022-2023



Guiding Statement

Vision: Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Mission: To improve access to high-quality early learning experiences for children in Franklin Parish to ensure kindergarten readiness.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Increase access to quality early care and education opportunities for children aged Birth to Three by 20 seats.

Strategies:

- Evaluate availability of current Infant, Toddler and Three-year-old seats by age and location with monthly child count.
- Requesting Birth to 3 Seats for the 2025-2026 Coordinated Funding Request.
- Franklin parish network intends to become a Ready Start Network when the next opportunity becomes available.

Resources:

Existing

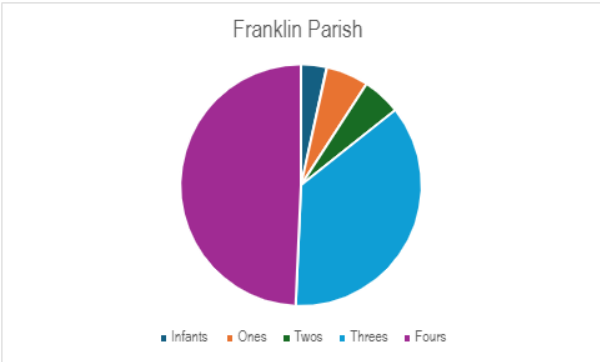
- Early Childhood Guide is available to assist families with applying for early childhood seats.
- Early learning centers have many unfunded open seats to serve children.
- Developmental play kits provided to children while on LDOE CCAP waitlist to support at home learning.

Needed

- Access to areas of parish where early care and education is limited.
- Local fundraising options targeting local businesses to support improved access.
- Teacher Retention Stipends

Performance Metrics: Measurement of number of seats served with public funding using Louisiana Department of Education's data kits, October 1 Child Count reports, February 1 Child Count reports, and monthly child count data.

Percentage of Children Served by Age Group based on Oct. Child Count



Goal 2: Continue to increase quality of early care and education until all sites are rated Excellent on annual Early Childhood Performance Profiles.

Strategies:

- Partner with Child Care Resources & Referral (CCR&R) to provide coaching, technical assistance, and monthly trainings for teachers and directors (ex. CLASS, Curriculum, Developmentally Appropriate Practice, etc.)
- Contracted trainings on various topics (ex. CLASS, Curriculum, Behavior Management, etc.)
- Regularly scheduled training is offered to PreK teachers during professional development days during the school calendar.

Resources:

Existing

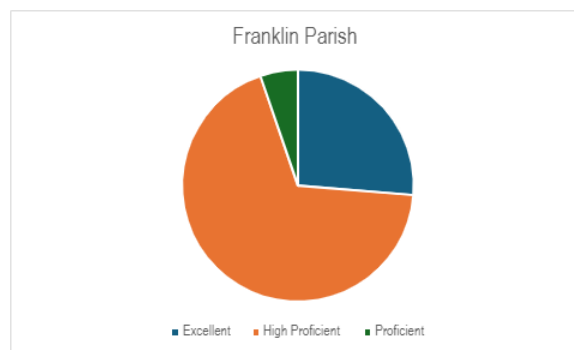
- Of the 17 early learning sites 5 are Excellent, 12 High-Proficient and 1 Proficient
- CCR&R Team and Monthly Training Calendar

Needed

- Additional professional development opportunities for teachers and directors

Performance Metrics: Review CLASS Overall Scores/Performance Profiles to identify all programs High Proficient or excellent.

Percentage of Early Learning Sites by Performance Rating



Goal 3: Increase awareness of available early care and education program options by 10% annually. Increase participation in the annual coordinated enrollment survey.

Strategies:

- Marketing Campaign - TV ads, radio ads, digital ads, social media, posters, flyers, newspaper articles, digital billboards
- Host a Round-up Kickoff Event for parents after Early Childhood & Preschool Round-Up
- Network informational folders shared with local sites to share with new families.
- Add parent leadership advocates share information to their local communities
- Partner with Library and Merit Center to connect with community members and get them engaged in raising awareness.

Resources:

Existing

- Annual marketing plan
- Coalition meetings that include community members

Needed

- Strategies to engage families in annual Coordinated Enrollment Survey

Performance Metrics: Coordinated Enrollment parent survey data

Awareness of Early Childhood Options in Franklin Parish

No Data Available