

OPENetwork

Your Choices Shape Their Chances

Blueprint

DRAFT

[1/3/2020]

Introduction

OPENetwork stands for Ouachita Parish Early Childhood Network. OPENetwork's goal is to make high quality early care and education available to in-need children in Ouachita Parish and that all children will enter kindergarten healthy and ready for success. OPENetwork will also work to help families to make the best choices for their child's early care and education and to be involved in supporting their child's early development.

In 2012, the Louisiana legislature passed Act 3, the Early Childhood Act. Act 3 requires BESE (the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) to create a unified system to manage all publicly funded early childhood programs. To begin this process, the Louisiana Department of Education selected communities around the state to become "Early Childhood Network Pilots." Ouachita Parish was one of 13 communities selected to become a pilot in the first round.

All publicly funded early childhood programs must comply with Act 3. These programs include; public school programs (LA 4, 8g, Title I), special education programs, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Steps, and the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development (NSECD) program.

The primary goal of the OPENetwork is to make high quality early care and education available to all children in Ouachita Parish so that all children will enter kindergarten healthy and ready for success. OPENetwork works to help families to make the best quality choice for their child's early care and education and to be involved in supporting their child's early development.

Ouachita Parish has critical gaps in access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners. In 2018-2019 only 4% of the Infants and Toddlers group had access to quality early care and education programs. Investing in Infants, Toddlers and Threes is key to the success of our community today and tomorrow.

Early Childhood Access & Access to Quality in Ouachita Parish by Age Group

(create this as a bar graph)

Age Group	Access 18-19	Quality Access 18-19
Infants	3%	1%
Ones	7%	4%
Twos	10%	7%
Threes	24%	15%
Fours	90%	76%

Guiding Statements

Vision: Your Choices Shape Their Chances

Mission: Children in Ouachita Parish will enter kindergarten healthy and ready for school.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Increase access to early care and education opportunities for Infants, Toddlers and Threes

- Evaluate availability of current Infant, Toddler and three-year-old seats by age and location with Monthly child count.
- Identify potential sites to add additional slots
- Request PDG funding for B-3 seats
- Explore EHS funding options

Resources:

- Existing: 5 EHS centers and two EHS childcare partnership sites. Several child care centers with space to provide care for Infants, Toddlers and Threes.
- Needed: PDG funding to fund available spots for Infants, Toddlers and Threes.

Performance Metrics: Increased enrollment of Infants, Toddlers and Threes by 30 children overall.

Goal 2: Increase access to quality ECE for four-year olds.

Strategies:

- Invite preschool teachers from Swartz Lower who scored Excellent to provide a workshop to share with other Preschool teachers the strategies they used.
- Partner with Child Care Connections to provide trainings on CLASS including MMCI for preschool teachers.

Resources:

- Existing: Excellent teachers in network and Child Care Connections partnership
- Needed: Trainings and workshops

Performance Metrics: CLASS Scores/Performance Profiles - all Preschool programs high proficient or excellent

Goal 3: Increase parent and community awareness on their ECE options when choosing a program for their children.

Strategies:

- Marketing Campaign - TV ads, Radio ads, Digital Ads, Social media, Posters, flyers
- Share Choosing Quality Child Care checklist

Resources:

- Existing: Templates already exist for flyers, posters. Met with marketing team to create a new more informative TV ad.
- Needed: Update flyers and posters.
- Survey parents on experience following Coordinated Enrollment.

Performance Metrics: survey data