

Fairfax School Readiness Community Collaborative Council Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan

The Fairfax School Readiness Collaborative Council is a collaboration of professionals representing county agencies, the schools, the community, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations who ensure that children are linked to integrated services; that families have access to school and community resources; that ensure successful adjustment to kindergarten; that schools are connected to the child's family and community before children enter kindergarten; and, that the community provides a network of integrated, comprehensive services to all.

The Council will advocate for the needs of children and families, promote quality and accountability of programs in early childhood, and provide research-based guidance on issues that affect successful entry into school and beyond.

Vision

The Fairfax School Readiness Community Collaborative Council will be the Fairfax area leader and resource in promoting school readiness.

Mission Statement

The Fairfax School Readiness Community Collaborative Council works to ensure that young children in the Fairfax area are ready to be successful when they enter school by building an integrated, comprehensive system that shares resources, supports families, is accessible to all and speaks with a collective voice.



Fairfax School Readiness Collaborative Council

Goal 1: Link children to integrated services

Strategies:

- Disseminate identified services that promote readiness support to all children, including those cared for in unregulated family child care provider homes and those at home with their families.
- Expand access to opportunities throughout the county where children participate and engage in experiences that develop school readiness skills.
- Develop and deliver a series of six seminar sessions on building positive mental health, social and emotional competence in young children

Goal 2: Provide families with access to school and community resources that ensure successful adjustment to kindergarten

Strategies:

- Develop and disseminate readiness resources and materials for all families, including those for whom English is not their first language. (Kindergarten readiness guide in development)
- Develop and disseminate information to families and early care and education professionals through multiple venues, including technology.
- Centralize resources available to families on county, school and community web sites.
- Utilize existing outreach programs in the schools and community to identify and support families through transition to kindergarten and beyond.
- Identify and provide readiness resources and materials to families who are in transition and/or homeless

Goal 3: Connect schools to a child's family and community before entering kindergarten

- Promote schools as a community hub where families and early care and education professionals can come to socialize and engage in a variety of activities
- Work with PTAs to disseminate readiness information and materials to parents
- Collaborate with county agencies to create and disseminate an abbreviated community resource pamphlet
- Partner with county agencies to provide workshops for early care and education professionals, nannies and au-pairs
- Create a parent mentor program that pairs parents with children in the school system with parents whose children are preparing to enter kindergarten

Goal 4: Create a community network of integrated, comprehensive services to all

Strategies

- Distribute readiness information at community food banks and faith-based organizations
- Address adult literacy and appropriate methods to communicate readiness information
- Meet with universities and community colleges to discuss how school readiness is presented to early care and education professionals
- Build a relationship with pediatricians and nurses who will provide families with information that will support their child's successful transition to kindergarten.