

Smart Beginnings – Southwest 2018-2020

VISION

Smart Beginnings Southwest Region’s data-driven strategies lead to measurable improvements in school readiness for all children.

OUTCOME

88% of kindergarteners in Southwest Virginia meet the Fall PALS-K benchmark by the 2020-2021 school year.

STRATEGIES

- 1. DATA IDENTIFICATION** –strengthen proficiency in data identification
- 2. DATA ACCESS** – Build the requisite trust and rapport with partnering agencies to create a productive data sharing culture
- 3. DATA ANALYSIS**– Build data analysis infrastructure to generate useable information from data
- 4. DATA MESSAGING & USE**– Increase ability to use data analysis to inform decisions and actions and tell effective data stories

Strategy 1: DATA IDENTIFICATION –strengthen proficiency in publicly available data identification			
Who – lead agency/ies	What – tasks to be completed	When – target completion date	Why – intended outcome
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Identify critical risk indicators and protective indicators for childhood success;	May 2018	Inform strategies and incorporate into report/mapping for public
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Identify key sources of publicly available data and build repository	May 2018	Organization of relevant data
Smart Beginnings	Receive TA from VECF vendor on VLDS, including an overview of the data VECF will be requesting from VLDS for Smart Beginnings sites to use to support their regional school readiness efforts	June 2018	Awareness of data available through VLDS
Smart Beginnings	Identify state and regional expertise to conduct descriptive and inferential statistical analysis on any specific school readiness data indicators	April 2018	Building capacity through consultants/partnerships
Smart Beginnings	Identify/obtain funds for ongoing strategies related to data identification	July 2018	Building capacity through new funding sources
Smart Beginnings/United Way	Consult with Ballad Health regarding accountable care communities, early childhood indicators, and available data in population health	May 2018	Long-term partnership
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Execute contracts with consultant(s)	May 2018	Project implementation
Smart Beginnings/Mixed Delivery	Explore expansion of PALS-PreK to private Virginia Quality participating providers	June-July 2018	Expansion of current work to include new data collection strategy—clearer picture of readiness for incoming kindergarteners; earlier intervention)
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech/UnitedWay	Release report of initial data analysis and engage partnerships in determining next steps for community-level data capacity to address identified	July 2018	Publish report on website with mapping tool; Host meeting to discuss findings and implications
United Way	Incorporate data analysis into framework/planning for Campaign for Grade Level Reading	July 2018	Acceptance into national CGLR network of communities

Strategy 2:			
DATA ACCESS – Build the requisite trust and rapport with partnering agencies to create a productive data sharing culture			
Who – lead agency/ies	What – tasks to be completed	When – target completion date	Why – intended outcome
Smart Beginnings (Regional Leadership Council)	Assess regional commitment to implementing data capacity building objectives	May 2018	Buy-in from community partners
Smart Beginnings	Develop an initial school readiness data inventory	May 2018	Awareness of available data sets
Smart Beginnings	Review examples of data sharing partnerships and cite successes in building relationships and resulting improved school readiness outcomes	July 2018	Awareness of possibilities and concrete examples
Smart Beginnings	Identify essential data-sharing sources/partners for elements included in the initial school readiness data inventory & assess partners willingness and readiness to share data	September 2018	Partnership development
Smart Beginnings	Engage in dialogue with partners and develop strategies to foster trust to progress from publicly available aggregate data to sharing child-level data	November 2018	Partnership development
Smart Beginnings	Develop a draft regional data sharing plan (limited research questions/intended uses of findings, data privacy considerations, vetting of plan w/ key partners)	December 2018	Clear plan for progress; greater collaboration between child care centers and school systems
Smart Beginnings/United Way	Draft data sharing agreements for each partner on board, based on templates; execute when finalized and review regularly	June 2019	Partnership development
United Way	Identify a regional partner(s) with capacity to securely house and organize child-level data (especially PALS Pre-K, PALS-K, and SOLs; create processes for linkage	January 2019	Research models (ie. Smart Beginnings Roanoke and Richmond, further along in data sharing efforts)

Strategy 3:
DATA ANALYSIS– Build data analysis infrastructure to generate useable information from data

Who – lead agency/ies	What – tasks to be completed	When – target completion date	Why – intended outcome
Smart Beginnings	Reach out to area universities/colleges and/or research organizations to determine availability and costs for assistance with analysis of publicly available data	April 2018	Building capacity through consultants
Smart Beginnings/United Way	Contract with research team and execute agreement	April 2018	Building capacity through consultants
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Clarify and confirm consensus on research questions	May 2018	Clarity of project scope
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Clarify data analysis plan to answer questions; refining as needed	May 2018	Clarity of project scope
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Review preliminary findings and provide context and other input; finalize and report on findings	June 2018	Findings of analysis; report to leadership council/stakeholders
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Identify new or ongoing research questions and assess time and costs associated with extending project	June 2018	Sustainability beyond initial VECF funding

Strategy 4: DATA MESSAGING & USE– Increase ability to use data analysis to inform decisions and actions and tell effective data stories			
Who – lead agency/ies	What – tasks to be completed	When – target completion date	Why – intended outcome
Smart Beginnings Derek Chapman, VECF Consultant	Build a regional data profile that can be updated annually	June 2018	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech/United Way Marketing Dept.	Develop a report for public access using aggregated and geographically disaggregated data	June 2018	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
Smart Beginnings/United Way Marketing Dept.	Identify key messages, data stories, or calls to action emerging from data analysis	June 2018	Engagement with Partners and Public Awareness
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech	Create an interactive map of risk and protective factors	June 2018; when add'l funding is available	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
Smart Beginnings/Virginia Tech/United Way Marketing Dept.	Develop other data visualizations that tell the story of the region's shared data related to school readiness	August 2018	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
United Way	Develop and populate regional data dashboards that incorporate early childhood indicators	July 2018	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
Smart Beginnings	Use data findings to identify resources, strategies, and partnerships needed to sustain data work and implementation of effective strategies	July 2018	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
Smart Beginnings/United Way	Use data findings to inform funding applications among data sharing partners for ongoing support of the work in the region	Ongoing	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making
Smart Beginnings/United Way	Use data findings to inform key strategies for deploying volunteers or financial investments to move the needle on early childhood indicators	Ongoing	Inform priority setting, resource allocations, strategies, and decision-making