



Road Map Region

# RACE to the TOP

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Race to the Top Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Mary Waldron Lead for Start Strong  
**SUBJECT:** Kindergarten Registration Update  
**DATE:** May 31, 2017

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an update on the regional kindergarten registration campaign, as part of the Race to the Top (RTT) **Start Strong Project**, and plans for the remainder of the grant period. While the majority of Start Strong project work concluded on August 31, 2016, two key elements of P3A will continue to move forward through December 2017 – leadership capacity building for WaKIDS implementation and the regional kindergarten registration campaign.

### **Project 3A - Establish a High Functioning PreK-3rd Grade System Region-Wide**

Project Goal & Status Report: The goal of Project 3A is to significantly improve students' kindergarten readiness, early literacy, and math skills, resulting in successful students and the reduction of achievement gaps through: 1. building leadership capacity; 2. improving the instructional core; and 3. expanding the use of data and formative assessments to drive improvement.

Performance Measures: Decreased achievement gaps in reading & math; increased percentage of students proficient on the Washington State 3rd Grade Reading & Math Assessment; increased percentage of students "Ready to Succeed in School by Kindergarten" on WaKIDS.

### Highlights and Continuing Work

**The regional kindergarten registration campaign is currently in its third year, with this year's opening day of registration being January 17, 2017.** Over the last two years, project staff in partnership with the Road Map school districts and community partners have refined messaging, materials, and strategies for increasing early and on-time kindergarten registration. In January 2016, the website KRegNow.org was launched as a central location for families and community partners to access information related to kindergarten registration. The website contains information, in 13 languages, related to finding your school district, critical timelines, information required for registering, and benefits of registering early for kindergarten. In addition, as part of our sustainability efforts, Angelica Alvarez (PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Systems Coach for Projects 3A & 3B) will be acting as the campaign manager through August 31, 2017. Her efforts currently focus on increasing partnerships between community based organizations (CBO) and school districts, alignment with ECEAP and Head Start programs,

pursing regional partnership to ensure sustainability, and working with P-3 Systems Program Manager Mary Waldron to create sustainability plans that include data collection and communication.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 PSESD facilitated a joint district-CBO data convening in which districts and their CBO partners reviewed disaggregated registration data (provided by districts), reflected on registration trends overall and for key populations, and began planning for the 2017 registration campaign. Staff from all seven Road Map districts attended this convening, along with 15 community partners.

**A cornerstone of the kindergarten registration effort is robust district-CBO partnerships.** These partnerships play a critical role in connecting districts to families who are not already part of the school system. CBOs are the trusted source of information for many key populations, and act as a conduit to connect families with young children to the district. To promote and support the development and sustaining of these partnerships, \$5,000 “mini-grants” were offered to districts and community partners during the 2016 registration campaign; generally speaking, these funds were distributed evenly to the district and their CBO partner at \$2,500 each. Districts and their CBO partner(s) were asked to submit a one-page outline of a registration event or effort, and technical assistance provided by P-3 Systems Coaches ensured that these events were truly co-planned by the district and community partners. Funding was distributed to both the CBO and the district to support staff time, event materials etc. Voluntary participation in these partnership mini-grants to Seattle, Kent, Tukwila, and Highline school districts during the 2016 registration campaign. Examples of collaborations from the 2016 campaign include, but are not limited to:

- Two registration events at King County Housing Authority (KCHA) apartment complexes in Kent School District (KSD). Outreach to families in the housing complex was conducted by KCHA staff, and the registration events were co-staffed by KSD and KCHA staff.
- Refugee Women’s Alliance worked in partnership with Tukwila School District to recruit Somali families to attend the school district’s spring registration event

Based on feedback from CBO and district staff, for the 2017 registration campaign, RTT increased the amount of funds available to \$5,500 with \$2,500 available to school districts and the remaining \$3,000 available to CBOs. For many CBOs the outreach and staff time required to support such events (particularly the first year) is outside of their “normal” duties, and therefore requires additional funds to ensure equitable funding for their time and effort. Most critically, all seven Road Map districts and their partners have submitted kindergarten registration event proposals for the 2017 registration campaign. Many of these registration events build on the work done last year, and several others are expanding to new partners. These events typically take place in late spring/summer and RTT staff is excited to capture the nature and results of these efforts during the remaining months of the grant.

**Data Collection** – To understand the impact of our efforts, district and PSESD staff have worked together to determine the ideal points of data collection. This data collection occurred in both 2015 and 2016, with some significant challenges. Beginning in 2015, all seven districts agreed to submit data that reflected the number of incoming kindergarten students registered prior to the first day of school.

There is some inconsistency regarding the specific point in time this data reflects, due to various district start dates, as well as various student information systems (SIS); some SIS will allow you to run real time reports, while others only allow for end of month reports. However, all districts did submit data regarding the number of students registered before the first day of school is 2015.

**An ongoing challenge of the regional kindergarten registration campaign has been collection of data and identification of trends.** During the fall of 2015, after reviewing the data during the P-3 Leads PLC, district leads and PSESD staff agreed that beginning in 2016 registration data should be disaggregated by race, ELL an FRL (when available), and that additional check points at the end of June and the tenth day of school would create a more robust understanding of when families are registering, and districts agreed to submit disaggregated data for all three check points in 2016 and 2017. In particular, understanding how many children are registered for kindergarten by the end of June is a critical data point; for families to take advantage of summer kindergarten transition activities (such as Round Up, and JumpStart) students have to be registered as early as possible. By understanding the gap between groups that have registered by the end of June, compared with those who have registered before the first day of school, or not at all (10<sup>th</sup> day of school), districts and CBOs can target outreach efforts to drive early registration.

To facilitate collection of this data, the end of June check point was included in the set of data districts submitted in July 2016 as part of their RTT data reporting. This resulted in collecting disaggregated data from 6 out of 7 districts (Federal Way provided a total number of students registered, but not disaggregated data). However, collection of data for the remaining check points has been challenging, and inconsistent. We have been unable to collect data for all three check points from any district. Based on feedback at the November 2016 data convening, CBOs and districts agreed that the two most valuable data collection points are those students registered by the end of June, compared to the total number of enrolled students (10<sup>th</sup> day of school). Moving forward, data will only be collected at these two points, and will continued be collected as disaggregated along race/ethnicity, ELL, and FRL when available.

In addition to the challenge of actually collecting the data, there have been challenges in identifying important or revealing trends. This is for a number of reasons -

- The most critical data is understanding the impact on key populations, such as black, Hispanic, ELL, FRL etc. Thus far we only have 2016 data that includes this disaggregation.
- Enrollment numbers vary every year and are not consistent. Some districts, such as Kent have actually seen a decline in kindergarten enrollment overall, so understanding percentage of students registered early/on time becomes critical, but is most useful when understanding that along disaggregated lines.
- Districts have been inconsistent in reporting their data. As mentioned above, data reporting has been somewhat inconsistent and spotty in the past, and we are continuing to work on methods to improve this

Aside from the overall number of students registered early and on time, there are other outcomes of the kindergarten registration campaign that we are interested in understanding. Chief among them are 1)

the nature of CBO-district partnerships related to the registration campaign and 2) how the experience of kindergarten registration has changed for stakeholders such as parents, principals, and teachers. RTT staff is currently working with PSESD evaluation staff to understand how we might capture information on these two points before the end of the grant period. In addition, RTT staff are working with enrollment staff at the districts to understand if there are better processes for collecting data moving forward and how to systematize those processes.

**Sustainability and potential expansion of the kindergarten registration campaign is a priority for the remainder of the grant period, through December 2017.** Because there is not funding to directly support the registration campaign after the conclusion of RTT in December 2017, incorporating the campaign into existing efforts is a key piece of sustainability. PSESD is in the processes of finalizing a new position that will support WaKIDS and full-day kindergarten (FDK) in the King and Pierce county region. This position, the WaKIDS/FDK Consultant, will be supervised by the P-3 Systems Program Manager, and work to provide technical assistance, training, and coaching to districts in their implementation of WaKIDS and FDK; the goal is to have this position filled by September 1, 2017. As part of this individual's role, they will be responsible for collection of registration data from the Road Map region districts, working to expand the registration campaign beyond the Road Map region (specifically beginning with other coalition such as Eastside Pathways and First Five Fundamentals in Pierce County). In addition, early and on time registration can be a key strategy in implementing the Parent Connection and Community Collaboration elements of WaKIDS, and the WaKIDS/FDK Consultant will promote this strategy when working with districts and schools both within and outside of the Road Map region. Angelica Alvarez will continue in her campaign manager position through the end of August 31, 2017, at which point responsibilities for integrating the registration campaign in to ongoing WaKIDS and FDK efforts will shift to the new WaKIDS/FDK Consultant through the end of December 2017. In addition, another CBO/district convening is planned for November of 2017 to provide another opportunity for districts and partners to review data, plan for the 2018 campaign, and will act as a key transition activity for the new WaKIDS/FDK Consultant.

In addition, RTT staff has been working with Child Care Resources (CCR) to add promotion of kindergarten registration to part of their standard call center practices. CCR provides child care referrals and information to all Washington families via phone or online. Our shared vision is that it will be standard practice for call center staff to provide information regarding kindergarten registration, as well as assistance in identifying that family's school district to the families of four year olds. This information will also be part of the online screener, and KRegNow.org and Childcare.org (CCR's website) will reflect this collaboration in shared information and resources. We are currently reviewing the P3 budget to determine the exact scope of work we can accomplish before August 31, 2017.

### **Questions**

Should you have any questions about the information in this memo, please contact us at:

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