



# U-46 Board of Education: Early Learner Initiatives Update

*Increasing opportunities and improving  
instructional quality.*

## 2024-2025





## Early Learning in U-46



# Early Learners Mission Statement

Our mission is to create inclusive learning communities for children **birth through Kindergarten** and their families.

We elevate student and family engagement through hands on learning, open-ended play, family support, and community outreach. This nurturing partnership enhances cultural identity, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and academic growth, in order to bring relevant contributions to the world.

## Strategic Plan Goals and Signature Strategy Alignment



- 1.1** Increase participation in birth-to-3 programming and pre-K classrooms.
- 1.2** Prioritize literacy, numeracy, and student wellness in professional learning.
- 1.3** Strengthen the home-school connection by providing families with skills and access to community resources.
- 2.1** Nurture the social-emotional health and wellbeing of students and staff.
- 2.2** Cultivate a sense of belonging.
- 3.1** Ensure curriculum, resources, and assessments are standards-aligned, high quality, and relevant.
- 3.2** Provide continuous professional learning to strengthen authentic student engagement.
- 3.3** Use common assessment data to guide instruction, enrichment, and intervention across grade levels.
- 4.1** Engage students in meaningful college, career, and life experiences.
- 4.2** Design grade-level, real-world connections to the Portrait of a Graduate competencies.

## Strategic Plan Focus



## Kindergarten Readiness



**Kindergarten Readiness** encompasses the skills and knowledge a child needs to succeed in kindergarten, including social emotional, cognitive, language and physical development. Strong kindergarten readiness leads to long-term academic success and overall well being.

### Children that are ready for Kindergarten are:

- Less likely to be identified as having special needs
- More prepared academically throughout their education
- More likely to graduate from high school
- Higher earners in the workforce



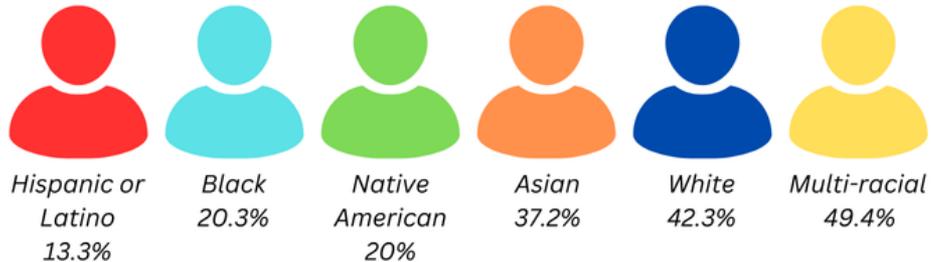


## KINDERGARTEN READINESS IN THE GREATER ELGIN AREA

The Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) is an observational tool designed to help teachers, administrators, families, and policymakers better understand the developmental readiness of children entering kindergarten.



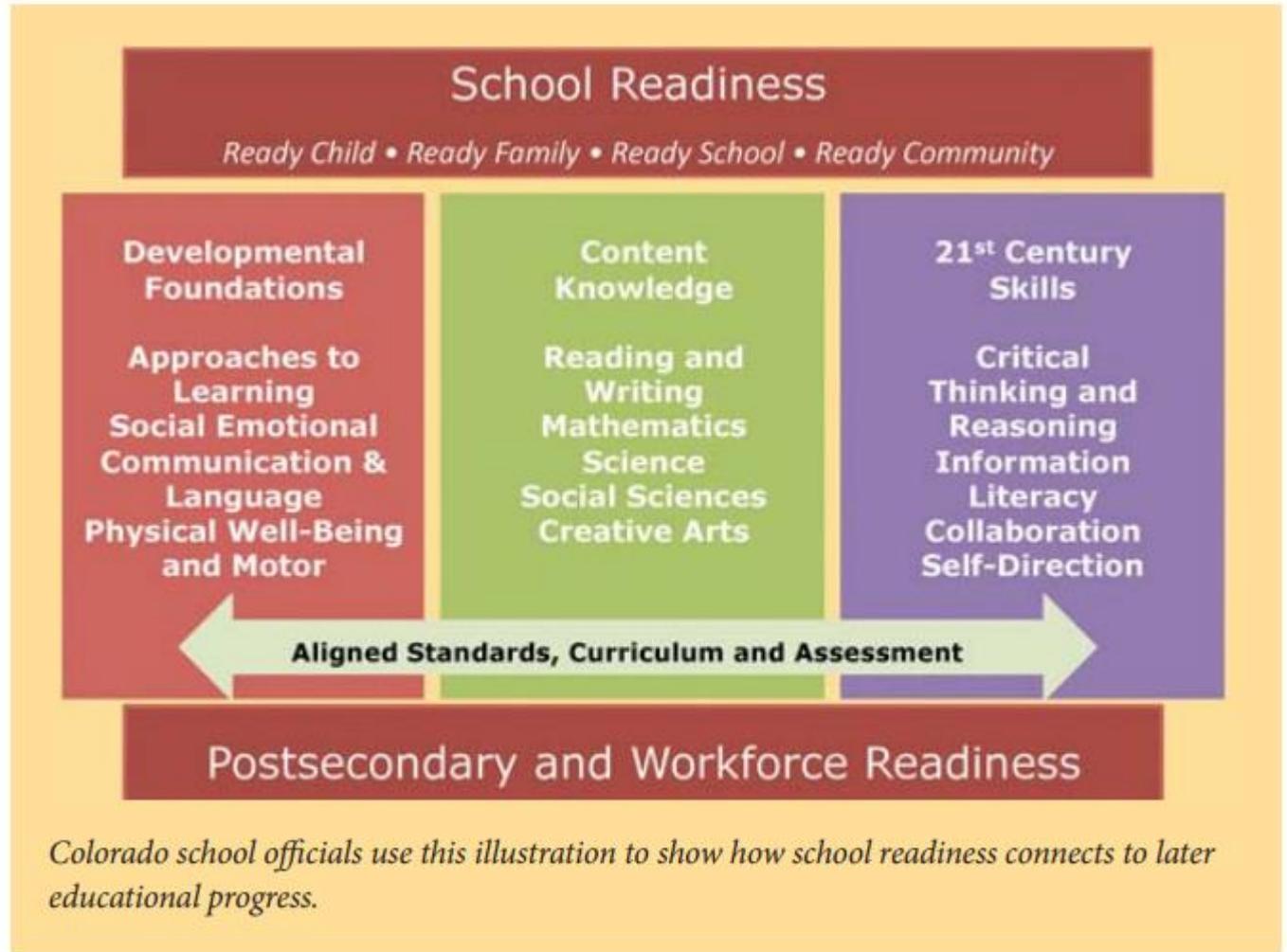
### CHILDREN DEMONSTRATING READINESS IN ALL THREE AREAS



Kindergarten  
Readiness  
in our  
Community



## Readiness and Community Impact



# 9,000

## Preschool Eligible Children in the Greater Elgin Community



**Preschool  
Slot Gap**

School Year	Preschool Slots in U-46 Schools	Publicly Funded Preschool slots in U-46 Boundaries (Including U-46 Slots)
2025-2026	1,799	<b>2,081</b>
2024-2025	1,649	1,824
2023-2024	1,480	1,735
2022-2023	1,360	1,562
2021-2022	1,360	1,562



## Preschool Growth in U-46

Preschool Slots by Network	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027, <i>proposed</i>
Bartlett	555	555	555	540
Elgin	135	105	195	360
Larkin	450	510	510	500
South Elgin	120	90	150	450
Streamwood	120	180	180	390
<b>Total Slots</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>2,240</b>
<b>Total Number of Sites</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>

## Illinois Park Classroom Relocation



	Eng PFA	Dual PFA	ECSE Dual	ECSE Eng	Total
<b>Illinois Park</b>	1	1	1	1	4
<b>Creekside</b>	1	1	1	1	4
<b>Highland</b>	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Harriet Gifford</b>	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Century Oaks</b>	1	1	2	0	4
<b>Lords Park</b>	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Channing</b>	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Timber Trails</b>	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>

**Preschool  
Growth in U-46**

## Instructional Quality Update



Instructional checklist,  
classroom visits with  
principals

Preschool furniture  
audit and refresh

Professional learning  
sessions and coaching  
cycles

New materials and  
books for all preschool  
and kindergarten  
classrooms

New MicroPDs shared  
monthly with staff

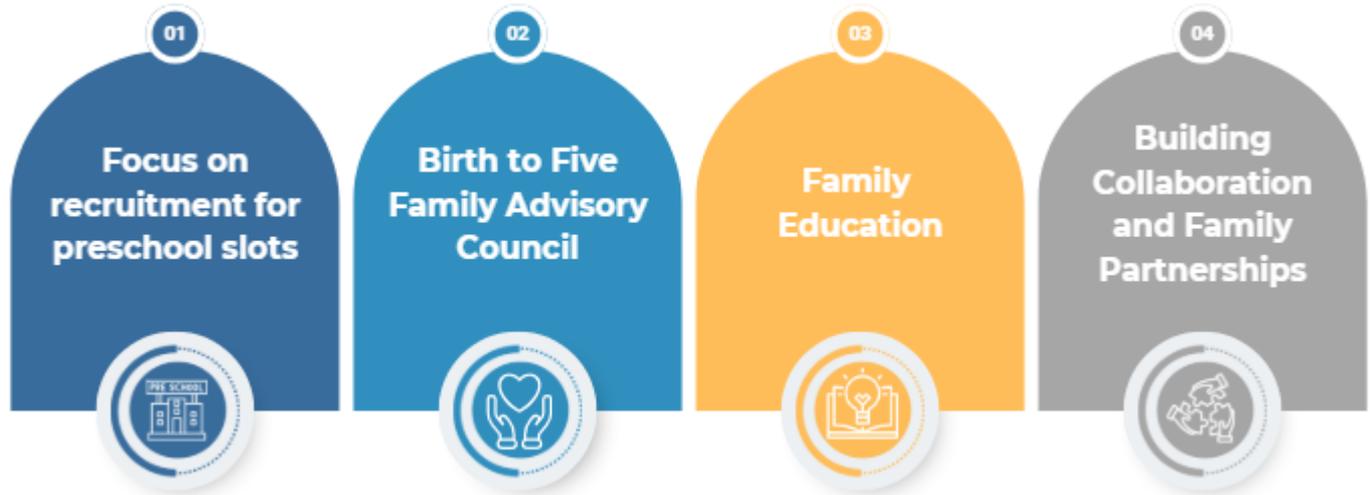
Screen time guidance for  
all early learning  
classrooms for  
2025-2026 school year

**Preschool  
Growth in U-46**

# Family and Community Engagement



## Family Engagement





## Community Engagement



### Our Principles

Five science-based parenting and caregiving tenets that support social, emotional, and cognitive development of children from birth to age five.

### Our Strategy

A public health approach that raises awareness about early childhood development and builds capacity throughout the community for engaging families around The Basics Principles and other supports.

### Our Network

A growing, multi-community learning network with locales in the United States and abroad, where stakeholders are using The Basics Strategy and contributing to a reservoir of insights for supporting families and young children.

[The Basics Vision and History Video linked to picture above](#)



“The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 will turn out.”

-Bill Gates



Advanced School and Life  
Readiness