

THE ACTION PLAN

The Plan consists of goals, strategies, and performance measures – all of which were widely vetted and carefully prioritized during the year-long planning process. Not published in this document are the set of tactics that delineate timelines and accountable parties. The tactics section is in a separate document because of its intentionally dynamic nature, but it can be accessed on the United Way for Greater Austin website. Annual progress reports to the community will detail our progress to the goals.

Ready Families

- + Ready Early Education Services
- + Ready Health and Mental Health Services
- + Ready Communities
- = Children Ready for School Success

School Readiness Action Plan Vision

Public and private sectors in Austin/Travis County will work together to ensure that school readiness becomes and remains a top priority. By the time children enter kindergarten, they will have the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and language skills needed to thrive in an educational setting.

READY FAMILIES

Goals

Families are financially secure. Families have access to and use the resources that provide them with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social supports to positively nurture the health, safety, and development of their children.

Strategies

1. Expand capacity and participation in research-based, culturally competent home-visiting, parent education and family support services for families with children under six.
2. Provide high-quality professional development opportunities for family support professionals that are aligned with the School Readiness Action Plan.
3. Integrate and coordinate high-quality workforce, adult education and/or parent education programs for adults with high-quality early care and education services for children.
4. Increase awareness of, access to, and use of adult literacy services for parents of young children.
5. Increase access to and use of financial stability resources by parents of young children.
6. Increase families access to basic needs services.
7. Integrate information that promotes health practices into family support programs.

Measurements

	2014	2018 Target
<i>Percent of children under three with parents who have completed at least one year of research-based home visiting services</i>	11	15
<i>Percent of children ages three to five years with parents who have completed evidence-based parent education services or Play To Learn</i>	7	25
<i>Number of family support professionals who completed Touchpoints training annually</i>	21	25
<i>Number of agencies providing or coordinating two-generation programs</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of families in two-generation programs</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of adults with young children who receive literacy instructions annually</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of early childhood service providers who have been trained to refer adults with young children to literacy programs</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of households receiving Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in Travis County</i>	225,273	+5%

* Current data are not available, but the Action Plan includes developing research around these specific measurements.

READY SERVICES: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Goals

Children and families are informed and able to access high-quality early learning environments that demonstrate positive developmental outcomes for all children (including children with unique developmental and cultural needs) through competent, responsive and caring relationships.

Strategies

1. Increase the availability of very high-quality early care and education centers for low-income families in Travis County.
2. Increase the number of eligible children birth to three-years-old served by Early Head Start.
3. Maintain the number of eligible three-year-old children served in Head Start.
4. Increase the number of eligible three-year-old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high-quality early education settings.
5. Increase the percentage of eligible four-year-old children enrolled in full-day Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts.
6. Recruit and retain qualified teachers and administrators.
7. Incentivize parents to choose quality early care and education.
8. Integrate and coordinate high-quality workforce, adult education, and/or parent education programs for adults with high-quality early care and education services for children.

Measurements

	2014	2018 Target
<i>Percent of full-day early care and education centers with 10 or more subsidized children aged 0-5 that are rated TRS 4-star or higher</i>	55	75
<i>Number of centers that are NAEYC accredited and serve 10 or more low-income children</i>	15	20
<i>Number of low-income children ages birth to 5-years-old in early care and education centers, or Early Head Start/Head Start centers, that are TRS 4 star or higher</i>	1459	+10%
<i>Number of eligible children birth to 3-years-old served by Early Head Start</i>	216	+10%
<i>Percentage of 3-yearolds served in center-based Head Start centers</i>	40	45
<i>Number of eligible 3-year-old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high-quality early education settings</i>	310	700
<i>Percentage of all eligible 4-year-old children enrolled in full-day Public Pre-K in Travis County School districts</i>	80	85

READY SERVICES: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION [continued]

Measurements	2014	2018 Target
Percentage of Travis County School Districts providing full-day Pre-k	33	95
Percent of lead teachers in full-day early care and education centers with an Associates degree or higher with 18 credit hours or more in child development	*	30
Percent of directors with at least 12 credit hours in early childhood development	*	50
Number of programs that incentivize parents to choose quality early care and education	3	6
Number of agencies providing or coordinating two-generation programs	*	+10%
Number of families in two-generation programs	*	+10%

* Current data are not available, but the Action Plan includes developing research around these specific measurements.

READY SERVICES: PREVENTATIVE PRIMARY CARE & MENTAL HEALTH

Goals

Children receive early and regular developmental screenings and immunizations and are linked to accessible, coordinated, integrated, and responsive basic needs, physical, dental and mental health services, including services for children with developmental delays.

Strategies

1. Increase the number of family-serving agencies that use developmental screeners to identify delays and make appropriate referrals.
2. Engage and orient the child health provider community to early childhood and the School Readiness Action Plan.
3. Increase access to and use of free or affordable integrated or coordinated health and mental health (including substance abuse) services for children and their family members.
4. Expand home-based and group parent education services with a mental health focus.
5. Expand the number of providers that have knowledge about (social emotional) trauma and make appropriate referrals.
6. Increase culturally sensitive family health literacy.
7. Increase number of early childhood education centers that use health consultants and mental health consultants and support.
8. Assess needs and assets/resources related to food security/insecurity and nutrition.

Measurements

	2014	2018 Target
<i>Number of meetings with child healthcare providers about early childhood issues and the School Readiness Action Plan</i>	17	+10%
<i>Number of home visiting and parent education programs that screen for mental health issues (including post-partum depression and trauma)</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of family-serving providers that have knowledge about trauma and make appropriate referrals</i>	*	+10%
<i>Percent of full-day early care and education centers serving at least 10 low-income children that have received support from mental health consultants</i>	26	35%
<i>Percent of full-day early care and education centers serving at least 10 low-income children that have received support from a health consultant</i>	*	+10%

* Current data are not available, but the Action Plan includes developing research around these specific measurements.

READY COMMUNITIES

Goals

Public and private sectors in Austin/Travis County work together to ensure that the community has the resources and infrastructure to deliver services to children and their families, and to provide a safe and healthy environment in which to raise children.

Strategies

1. Ensure progress on the School Readiness Action Plan.
2. Foster partnerships to leverage resources.
3. Connect early childhood issues to other systems and related community planning processes.
4. Promote a shared system of measurement for common early childhood outcomes.
5. Align policy and funding with the School Readiness Action Plan.
6. Create opportunities for community engagement and leadership by parents, caregivers, and early care and education providers.
7. Advance early childhood issues in city and county planning to improve health and safety.

Measurements

	2014	2018 Target
<i>City and County spending on early childhood development and learning per low-income child</i>	\$131	+20%
<i>Number of briefings to local elected officials or City or County staff leaders on behalf of the School Readiness Action Plan</i>	25	+10%
<i>Number of briefings to community and governmental organizations on behalf of the School Readiness Action Plan</i>	23	+10%
<i>Number of briefings to private funders and philanthropic foundations on behalf of the School Readiness Action Plan</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of focus groups conducted with parents, caregivers, or early care and education providers</i>	16	+10%
<i>Number of parents, caregivers, and ECE providers who participate in advocacy or educational briefings</i>	*	+10%
<i>Number of English story times offered at Austin library locations in low-income neighborhoods</i>	510	560
<i>Number of Spanish/Bilingual story times offered at Austin library locations in low-income neighborhoods</i>	160	176

* Current data are not available, but the Action Plan includes developing research around these specific measurements.

READY CHILDREN

Goals

Travis County Children ages 0-5 are healthy, happy and prepared for school success.

Strategy

Measure and report children’s developmental status on multiple domains using developmentally appropriate tools. The purpose is the improvement of programmatic and community efforts, not to evaluate individual children or teachers.

Measurements

2014

2018 Target

Percent of children who enter kindergarten school ready

54

70

Percent of low-income children who enter kindergarten school ready

42

60

Percent of children receiving research- or evidence-based community services who exhibit age-appropriate development as measured by a validated screening tool

80

90

