



A Strong Start

Commitment #1

Presented by

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Goals of the Presentation

- Review our "Strong Start" Commitment of the Strategic Plan;
- Provide updates on the Key Initiatives related to A Strong Start;
- Share JPS Quick Facts regarding Prekindergarten & Early Learning; &
- Outline the forthcoming Hinds County Human Resource Agency (HCHRA) Agreement.



Why Expand Prekindergarten?

“During the community sessions and on surveys, participants overwhelmingly agreed that comprehensive early childhood education is important because it helps prepare the children for school.”

For those parents who did not have children that participated in early childhood education programs, the reason cited most often was availability.”

- Jackson Public Schools
One Voice Report (pg. 27)





Prekindergarten Landscape In MS

- The City of Jackson received a \$2 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- The state of Mississippi offers limited funding for Pre-Kindergarten through the Early Learning Collaborative Act (2013):
 - 1:1 Match from the state and local district funds
 - State tax credit for individuals who make a contribution to support the local learning collaborative;
 - Partnership required with Head Start and another early childhood entity

Why Pre-Kindergarten?

- Students gain the pre-readiness skills (literacy and numeracy) needed to be successful in school;
- Students enhance their social and emotional development;
- Pre-kindergarten promotes the development of language and cognitive skills.



How are we doing with pre-kindergarten in JPS?

(MKAS Spring Data 2019)

MDE Desired Score	Jackson Public School District	Madison County Schools	Hinds County School District	Rankin County Schools	Clinton Public Schools
498	545	475	537	577	568



Overview of “A Strong Start”

- **Provide comprehensive access to high-quality pre-kindergarten opportunities**
- **Expose young scholars to positive learning experiences**
- **Prepare young scholars to develop the skills needed for success in school and life**

Aligned Core Values

Equity, Excellence, and Growth
Mindset



Key Initiatives Implementation Plan

Key Initiatives	Year 2019 - 2020
Develop a robust early literacy campaign	Planning
Expand the number of available pre-kindergarten seats	Planning
Partner with existing Head Start, daycare, and early childhood centers in Jackson	Implemented/Continuous Refinement
Develop a Parent Academy	Planning
Implement a high-quality, developmentally appropriate curriculum	Implemented



Expand the Number of Available Pre-Kindergarten Seats

- Optimizing Equity Plan, Van Winkle Elementary School will become an exclusive Pre-kindergarten Center;
- Five general education pre-kindergarten classrooms will be added at McWillie;
- Three exceptional education classrooms at Van Winkle will expand access to inclusive education students with special needs.



Partner with existing Head Start, Day Care, and Early Childhood Centers in Jackson

- Formalizing agreement with HCHRA to relocate the pre-kindergarten (4) program in south Jackson to Van Winkle
- Meeting monthly with day care and early childhood centers in Jackson to discuss additional pre-k supports for their respective centers



Implement a High-Quality, Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

- Opening the World of Learning (OWL) was adopted and implemented in all JPS pre-kindergarten classrooms in the fall of 2019
- The new curriculum will be used in the new classrooms for the 2020 – 2021 school year
- Opportunities will be made available for day care and early childhood centers in Jackson to adopt the curriculum the 2020 – 2021 school year



JPS Quick Facts

- Currently, through the Office of Federal Program a \$2,700,000.00 district set-aside is taken to fund pre-kindergarten.
- The set-aside pays for 29 teachers and teacher assistants.
- HCHRA has one pre-kindergarten classroom at Isable Elementary.
- There is a pre-kindergarten classroom at the Career Development Center (district funded).
- Our current prekindergarten enrollment is 520 .
- 16 teachers are licensed, 13 teachers are obtaining licensure through support from the Office of Teaching & Learning.
- 100% of pre-kindergarten teachers must be properly licensed by 2021.



HCHRA Agreement

- JPS will pay for 5 classroom teachers and HCHRA will pay for 5 teacher assistants;
- HCHRA will provide 2 social workers, 2 behavior specialists, an educational specialist, and an instructional coach;
- HCHRA will provide furniture for the new classrooms;
- JPS will provide the technology for the new classrooms.



Closing Take-Aways



We are actively expanding pre-kindergarten access in Jackson Public Schools in response to community need (McWillie and Van Winkle).



Our collaboration with Head Start, the City of Jackson, and other early childcare centers will allow us to become more competitive for state collaborative funding which is a 1 to 1 match.

