

ENGAGING EARLY EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE KINDERGARTEN READINESS

TUPELO/LEE COUNTY



- ▶ TUPELO/LEE COUNTY
- ▶ 2 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- ▶ 55 CHILD CARE CENTERS
- ▶ 7 HEAD START CLASSROOMS

- ▶ ALL OPERATING ON THEIR OWN ISLAND



▶ KINDERGARTEN READINESS

- ▶ 17-18
- ▶ TUPELO 503
- ▶ LEE COUNTY 499

▶ THIRD-GRADE READING

- ▶ SPRING 2017
- ▶ TUPELO PL3-32%
- ▶ LEE COUNTY PL3- 35%
- ▶ STATE 32%

DATA



- ▶ 30% OF 4-YEAR-OLDS ATTENDED CHILD CARE CENTERS
- ▶ 25% OF 4-YEAR-OLDS STAYED AT HOME

▶ MKAS SCORES OF CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE

- ▶ 17-18 TUPELO 503
- ▶ 17-18 LEE COUNTY 447

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- ▶ FALL 2017
- ▶ POLLED 25 RANDOM CHILD CARE CENTERS
 - 1 CENTER HAD REGULAR CONTACT WITH SCHOOLS
 - 4 DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS WERE AWARE OF MKAS
 - 2 CENTERS HAD COMPUTERS OR IPADS
 - GREATEST NEEDS WERE IDENTIFIED AS:
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOLS, DIGITAL TOOLS

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- ▶ JOINED CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING
- ▶ ACTIVE EXCEL BY 5 (LATER MERGED FORMING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION)
- ▶ DAILY CENTER VISITS
- ▶ DATA ANALYSIS

FIRST STEPS



- SCHEDULED VISITS TO K CLASSROOMS
- MONTHLY MEETINGS (CENTER TEACHERS, K TEACHERS, HEAD START, ECEC)
- PD PROVIDED BY DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUALIZED BY CENTER



STEPS CONTINUED

- OBSERVATION/BREAKFAST EVENTS
- ACCESS TO DIGITAL TOOLS (54 COMPUTERS DONATED, COMPUTER LABS)
- CURRICULUM RESOURCES



STEPS CONTINUED

ECEC INVITATION TO PD AND ARTS INTEGRATION

- HUGE STEP- LCS RECEIVED GRANT FOR ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONIST TO WORK WITH 6 CENTERS!!!!



STEPS CONTINUED

- ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS
- PARTNER WITH AREA CHURCHES (WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS, ETC.)
- BARBERSHOP BOOKS



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- IMAGINATION LIBRARY- 1,200 ENROLLED
- PARTNER WITH APARTMENT COMPLEX
- K TEACHERS VOLUNTEER TIME IN SUMMER (CENTERS, BOYS & GIRLS CLUB)



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN 2 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- ▶ FOCUS GROUP MADE UP OF TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS FROM BOTH DISTRICTS, CHILD CARE CENTER TEACHERS/DIRECTORS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO WORK ON STUDENT ATTENDANCE
- ▶ 2 SCHOOLS RECEIVED \$5,000 GRANT TO IMPROVE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

ADDED BONUS.....



- ▶ PARTNERSHIP FORMED WITH LOCAL ARTISTS TO PROVIDE LESSONS AT 7 CENTERS TWICE A MONTH



- ▶ INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE AT PARENT WORKSHOPS, CHILD CENTERED COMMUNITY EVENTS
- ▶ INCREASE IN COALITION ATTENDANCE
- ▶ INCREASE IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CHILD CARE CENTERS, HEAD START, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SUCCESSSES



- ▶ PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED CENTERS REPORTED HAVING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS EXPECTED IN KINDERGARTEN.
- ▶ LEE COUNTY STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED CHILD CARE CENTERS INCREASED MKAS SCORE BY 47 POINTS, TUPELO 3 POINTS.

SUCCESSSES



- ▶ LARGE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE CENTERS
- ▶ LACK OF TRUST BETWEEN CENTERS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- ▶ VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND FOCUS GROUPS AND EVENTS

CHALLENGES



**ICAN'T,
BUT
WE CAN.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION

