

2017

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

PROGRESS REPORT

COMMUNITY: Holland, Zeeland and Hamilton

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READY 
FOR SCHOOL

2017

KINDERGARTEN READINESS PROGRESS REPORT

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS IS A COMMUNITY ISSUE.
READY FOR SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN SOLUTIONS
TO CARRY CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD.**

Our business model brings together education, healthcare, community and business leaders to help kids and families. We go where the need is greatest to identify obstacles, test new approaches to increasing school readiness, promote innovation, and develop better ways to meet the needs of both children and the adults in their lives. Commitment to this process drives our strategies, motivates community partnerships and defines areas of replicability.

EDUCATION	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Increasing access to high quality preschool	X		
Creating financially sustainable community preschool access			X
Access to quality year-round early childhood learning		X	
Being a recognized and trusted referral resource	X		
Building bridges between pre-K environments and area schools		X	
Partnerships that result in sustained early childcare and preschool quality		X	
Strategies for reinforcing and sustaining readiness gains			X
Elevating world class talent in early childhood education			X

NOTES:

In 2017 we awarded 359 preschool and Start School Ready scholarships – up from 49 in 2010! Capacity is a growing challenge creating a gap in year-round quality early learning experiences.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Using local data and outcomes to guide our work to areas of greatest need	X		
Improving access to and quality of early learning opportunities for all children		X	
Catalyzing new gap filling programs	X		
Reach Out & Read: 50+ local physicians, PAs, and nurse practitioners = 15,846 child well visits + building family libraries with 16,914 books	X		
Community-wide focus on early literacy, social-emotional readiness & the transition to kindergarten		X	
Building an equity framework for community readiness		X	
Raising community-level awareness of the value of investing in early childhood		X	

NOTES:

Examples of 2017 impact in action! Summer Lunch & Learn Program; Building Bridges; Early Education Roundtable; Preschool Access Network; Start School Ready pilot with Holland Public Schools; The Little Big Read

COLLABORATION

	DOING WELL	MAKING PROGRESS	NOT YET
Leveraging systems and building partnerships that model smart use of resources	X		
On-the-ground alignment with community partners leading to innovative solutions		X	
Turn research results into best practices that create models for sustaining an increase in school readiness			X
Public/private partnerships that promote equity, integrate efforts and engage across sectors		X	

NOTES:

Together we are testing solutions that accelerate progress! Examples: Start School Ready Expansion Project; Public-Private Partnerships; Pilot Corporate Partnership with Herman Miller

PRESIDENT/CEO COMMENTS:



In 2017, 63% of our incoming Kindergarten students met the benchmark criteria for readiness, up from 55% in 2010 and 43% in 2008. Our community has taken several positive steps to increase and sustain community-wide Kindergarten readiness.

But our work is not finished.

What's Next? Start School Ready, an early literacy accelerator and school system change agent.

Ready for School projects evolve to fill gaps and test solutions alongside publicly funded partners. Start School Ready is a perfect example. Once implemented and scaled across multiple local school districts, this transformative pre-K learning experience will send 25% more children to school with the early literacy and social-emotional skills necessary for a strong foundation for their K-12 education. With a clear line of sight, our community is confidently poised to close the school readiness gap!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Collaboration is at the core of our work to **prepare children for success** in school and **transform futures** through the **power of innovation**. We thank the individual donors, foundations, corporations and organizations that supported Ready for School's work in 2017.



\$762,270

2017 SOURCES OF FUNDING

43% Foundations	29% Individuals
24% Corporations	1% In-Kind

\$793,287

2017 EXPENDITURES

74% Programs & Services
19% Management & General
7% Fundraising