2018 WAUKEGAN KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

United Way of Lake County has conducted a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment every three years in Waukegan since 2006. This important undertaking would not be possible without the support of United Way of Lake County’s Women United, Waukegan Community Unit School District 60 and its staff, principals, teachers, and all our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment!

WHY DO WE MEASURE KINDERGARTEN READINESS?

- To understand the skills and demographics of Waukegan Public School District 60 students in order to develop programs that meet their needs
- To measure effectiveness of initiatives over time
- To track overall community improvement against goal

HOW DO WE MEASURE?

Readiness was measured using a 2-PRONGED ASSESSMENT developed by Santa Clara Partnership for School Readiness and Applied Survey Research that included:
- Evaluation of student skills through teacher and volunteer observation
- Parent survey of home demographics

15 SKILLS were assessed in 4 CATEGORIES:
- Communication and language
- Cognition and general knowledge
- Social and emotional development
- Physical well-being and motor development

Children receive one of 4 POSSIBLE SCORES on each skill:
- Not yet started
- Beginning
- In progress
- Proficient

26 CLASSROOMS were assessed at 7 SCHOOLS:
- Carman - Buckner
- Clearview
- Cooke Magnet
- Glen Flora
- Glenwood
- McCall
- North

483 CHILDREN were assessed:
- 48% of total Waukegan kindergarteners
- 51% of parents responded to the parent survey
- Assessments are conducted during the 4th to 6th week of the school year

38 VOLUNTEERS helped conduct the assessment in both English and Spanish.
The assessment was conducted using an independent two-pronged tool developed by Santa Clara Partnership for School Readiness and Applied Survey Research.

Teachers and trained volunteers observed each child in his/her classroom and tested their proficiency in 15 readiness skills. Children were scored: Not Yet, Beginning, In Progress, or Proficient in each readiness skill. The skills are grouped into four educational focus areas recognized by educators as essential to a comprehensive education (Exhibit 1):

- Communication and Language Usage
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Well-Being and Motor Development

Parents completed a survey of family demographics, preschool experience, family education, language proficiency and kindergarten readiness activities.

We assessed a statistically valid sample of 483 children from 26 classrooms in 7 schools for a total of 48% of kindergarteners.
Early childhood education experts define kindergarten "ready" as being able to score In Progress or Proficient in five key kindergarten readiness skills: recognizing shapes, letters and colors, being able to write his/her name, and counting 10 objects.

Twelve years ago, a baseline assessment showed that only 6% of the children in Waukegan Public Schools had the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten. Today, based on the same assessment, the percentage of Waukegan children who arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed in school has increased from 6% to 57%! (Exhibit 2)
Children scored higher in all the levels of the major literacy and cognitive skills than in previous years (Exhibit 3).

United Way’s Success By 6 programs continue to have a significant impact on helping improve kindergarten readiness (Exhibit 4).

Children who participated in United Way of Lake County’s programs were more "ready" for kindergarten than children who did not.
UNITED WAY PROGRAMS HELP BOOST KINDERGARTEN READINESS SKILLS

Compared to children who did not take part in United Way of Lake County's programs, children who participated in Home Visiting and Kindergarten Countdown Camp were more "ready" for kindergarten.

Percent of Children Considered Ready for Kindergarten

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Ready</th>
<th>Not Ready</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Countdown Camp</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visiting</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukegan Overall</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Kindergarten Countdown Camp sends kids who’ve never been to preschool to a six-week kindergarten prep class the summer before they start the real thing. They learn the absolute basics, like writing their names and counting the number of crayons in their boxes, which brings them up to speed with the other children on that important first day of school.

Home Visiting formally matches nurses and social workers with our poorest and most at-risk families when the children are babies. This intervention gets the right resources and coaching to parents, which in turn gets their babies on the right path early.