



---

# Memo

To: Harlem Board of Education

From: Jason Blume, Director of Equity and Community Engagement  
Erin Anderson, Parker Center Principal

Date February 9, 2022

Re: UCLA Proposal

---

The Early Development Instrument (EDI), a population-based measure similar to a kindergarten census, assesses the ability of kindergartners to meet expectations in five developmental domains. It is a holistic approach that measures the school readiness of children.

The EDI was created in 1998 by the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University in Toronto and remains in use throughout Canada. The University of California Los Angeles' (UCLA) Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities has been implementing the tool in more than 50 communities in the U.S. since 2009.

More so than ever, research is confirming that what happens in early childhood plays a big role in lifelong health, well-being, and learning. Communities find value in using the EDI as a needs assessment to better understand trends and patterns in child development and to make sure resources meet the needs of children and their families.

EDI data are mapped onto neighborhoods and designed to show school and communities where children have the greatest strengths and opportunities for growth in the different developmental domains. The EDI findings are interpreted by school and community stakeholders and can help initiate targeted conversations on how to set children up for success before they start kindergarten, and where there are opportunities to focus additional support. Schools with more than one kindergarten classroom can receive a confidential report of aggregate data reflecting their students.



*A Community of Leaders*

8605 N. Second St., Machesney Park, IL 61115 ■ (815) 654-4500 ■ (815) 654-4600 (fax) ■ [www.harlem122.org](http://www.harlem122.org)

EDI findings can be used in the following ways:

- Provide insight into the neighborhood environment that can affect a child's development;
- Inform school planning for future kindergarten students, taking into consideration any needs they may have;
- Indicate areas of need in terms of teaching resources, training and planning time;
- Map community assets such as early childhood centers, child care and family home care providers, social service agencies, health resources and other supports; and
- Compare against U.S. Census information to provide additional factors for consideration such as poverty levels and household demographics.