

Community Assessment Updates

Denton ISD Head Start Program

(January 2020)

Executive Summary

Our Comprehensive Community Assessment was conducted December of 2018. For the 2019-2020 school year, each Program Manager reviewed their areas and provided updates during December 2019. While minimal changes were noted that would affect our initial assessment results, the slight changes/trends that stood out as worthy of noting are highlighted below. The most significant change that we saw this school year and predict that we will continue to see next year will be in the area of ERSEA due to the district's expansion of Pre-K programs for 4-year old students.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND SERVICE AREA DATA:

Our Program is located in a fast, growing Denton community with sufficient resources. Our School District encompasses 186 square miles and contains all or parts of 18 cities, communities, or major developments. The city population has increased approximately 19.1% from 2010-2017, with an estimated population of 138,541. Families considered to be within or below the poverty line have had a slight decrease to 17.7%. There is a rise in the poverty rate in families with a female householder, no husband present, with related children under the age of 5 which is at 42.6%. According to the data from Denton County, the highest reason for homelessness was due to unemployment and is at 23.8%. DISD has 793 students identified under McKinney Vento and Foster Care in our district (Pre-K to 12th grade) which is a decrease from previous years. Our campus currently serves 25 of these students and 18 of those attend our Head Start program. This data confirms that we need to have spots available for these incoming homeless/foster children.

Denton ISD is currently one of the fastest growing school districts in Northern Texas. This year, the district has enrolled 31,009 students. Community volunteers spent about 262,314 hours in the DISD schools last school year. Our Head Start program at Ann Windle recorded approximately 42,869 volunteer hours for the 2018-19 school year. According to Templeton Demographics projections, the

district currently is on pace for 2,300+ new home closures this year which in turn will bring more students to our schools.

EDUCATION AND ERSEA

DISD has a total of 4 High Schools, 1 alternative High School, 8 Middle Schools, 24 Elementary Schools, 2 Early Childhood Centers, and an Advanced Technology Complex. Together, the two Early Childhood campuses currently serve 620 students who are three and four years old. 194 of those students participate in our Head Start program. Out of the 194, 105 are served in an English class and 89 are served in a Bilingual classroom. To serve additional students in other geographical locations within Denton, Denton ISD has expanded to having 15 of our Elementary campuses, 1 other Early Childhood campus, and 1 partnership campus houses Pre-K and PPCD programs that serve Pre-K age students. These programs consist of a full-day program, with exception of a few half-day options, where majority of students served are 4 years old. They currently serve approximately 1,083 students at these other locations/programs. Our assessment indicates that our Head Start program is serving approximately 29.92% of the eligible population in this targeted area. The current program priority list only has 17 children listed which are English speakers. It includes 12 who are three-years old and 5 who are four-years old. This is the reason we created one class this year to be a Flex class where we determine if it will be an English class or a Spanish class based on our current enrollment needs. With expansion of Pre-K programs across the district, we have seen a significant decrease in our priority list. In previous years, our priority list averaged at least 60 students. This trend shows us that we will have to increase our recruitment efforts next school year. This will need to be a collaborative effort alongside the district in order to get the neediest families to our program. This trend also shows us that during eligibility, recruitment, and selection, we may see an increase in the number of children who are 3 years old apply and enroll into the program due to the district opening more Pre-K programs that serve 4 year old students.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The DISD community, with support from our local United Way agency, continues to develop and improve early childhood efforts and initiatives through our Early Childhood Coalition: Serving the North Texas Region. This has been a collaborative effort and has increased our partnerships with other key stakeholders in the field of Early Education in our community. We have developed a clear mission and

focus for our group. Our mission statement is: “To engage and empower parents, families, professionals, and communities to provide enriched environments for all children birth-8 years through: Advocacy, Resources, and Comprehensive Services”. In line with these efforts, DISD has continued the partnership between Ann Windle and our neighboring Denton City County Day School. This partnership allows students needing care/supervision before or after school to be transported by DISD transportation to and from the child care center before and/or after their school day. This has been a great partnership that has helped some of our Head Start families in need of extended care. We currently have 17 students accessing these services and 10 of these are Head Start students. There are three other child-care centers that pick students up for extended care. We have 14 Head Start students accessing these services. To date, there are 50 licensed community child-care programs open that are accounted for in Denton outside our DISD Public School Centers. There are 12 additional licensed child-care homes. Some of these centers have been joining our Coalition and collaborating with us on professional development opportunities for their staff. Region XI Service Center has offered some collaborative PD opportunities as well on our campus.

FAMILY SOCIAL SERVICES:

There are no remarkable changes since last year’s comprehensive assessment. However, the following information now available is important to note for Texas:

In 29% of cases reviewed in 2017, violence in the relationship was a known issue; this includes all cases where relatives or friends reported knowing about the violence and cases where law enforcement had been involved. 37% of women killed in 2017 had made attempts to end their relationships or were in the process of ending the relationships when they were murdered.

In 2017, perpetrators killed 87 women who were mothers, resulting in 211 adults and minor children losing one or more parents. Of those who lost parents, at least 64% were children, teens, and young adults. Two women were pregnant when they were killed.

Survivors of family violence often make difficult decisions when balancing their safety concerns with needs to remain in contact with their abusive ex-partners. Custody exchanges and decision-making around co-parenting frequently require ongoing contact. Sadly, perpetrators of family violence use these necessary contacts to maintain any measure of control, and there are often devastating

outcomes. This data shows us the importance of supporting our families in/through this type of situation.

PARENT FAMILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

During recruitment, parents complete a family needs assessment. We use this data to plan parent education classes that will help parents meet their family goals. The areas of greatest needs identified were: Assisting their child in learning, Nutrition, Child Behavior Management, ESL classes, and desire to further their Education/University. While there are many community agencies offering services, some parents are not aware of or accessing them. Therefore, there is a great need for parent education. Our program is offering classes to address these needs and to help parents progress on family goals. A new way that we will be trying to help our parents this year will be through obtaining training on how to host a Parent Café.

HEALTH/NUTRITION:

There are no remarkable changes since last year's assessment. However, the following information now available is important to note:

In 2016, opioid deaths in Denton occur at a rate of only 4.1 per 100,000 (7.5 for any psychoactive substance) as compared to 4.5 per 100,000 for Texas (8.8 for any psychoactive substance). These are both well below the U.S. drug overdose death rate of 19.8 per 100,000 for 2016. There was a near 10% jump in that rate from 2016 to 2017, and while numbers for Denton County are not currently accessible for 2017, it will be important to monitor for an increase in the rate of drug use amongst our family populations.

With obesity on the rise nation-wide, we continue to see the importance of tracking our student's body mass index. For the 2019-2020 school year, 35.8% of our students began the year with high BMIs, more than last year's percentage of 29.6%. This year, 11% of our students began the year with low BMIs compared to last year's percentage of 13.1%. A slightly higher percentage of our high BMI students are in our bilingual classes, primarily serving Latino students. These classes also have a slightly higher percentage of our healthy weight students. However, our bilingual classes have a significantly lower percentage of our underweight students. We have initiatives to serve our students and encourage healthy weights. We participate in the *Foods for Kids* program which sends food

home on the weekends with students in need. We encourage healthy eating and activity through a variety of means. We encourage decreased screen time for our students. Those students who are identified as under or over a healthy BMI are sent referral letters encouraging parents to discuss their numbers and any concerns with their primary care providers. Those students are also checked during the spring to determine if that student is moving towards a healthy BMI or if follow-up is needed with the family. Those who have BMIs moving significantly towards unhealthy high or low numbers are counselled in person by the nurse to discuss possible causes and ways to work towards a healthy weight.

Currently Ann Windle has 60.47% of the student population that are directly certified to receive free meals through SNAP/Medicaid. District wide 21% of the student population is directly certified for free meals due to SNAP/Medicaid.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Texas Department of Agriculture continued a waiver which allow districts to provide free meals to all preschool aged children enrolled with a school district. This enabled the other 39.53% of the students to receive free meals.

DISABILITIES

Information was obtained from the Denton ISD Special Education software program to determine the number of children served with a disability within the district's attendance area. Results of the analysis indicated of the district's total special education population of preschool aged children (3 or 4 years of age on 1/12/2020) to be 356. Services are provided on nine campuses. This is a significant change and is the result of legislation that changed the prekindergarten program for 4-year-olds to a full-day program. While the law is mandated for the 2020-21 school year, Denton ISD chose to begin implementation in the current 2019-20 school year. Two of the nine campuses are early childhood centers, one of them being the Ann Windle School for Young Children campus where the district's Head Start Program is housed. All campuses have a general education PK classroom. An analysis was also conducted to determine the disabilities served in groups of PK aged students eligible for special education services throughout the district. Those results are reported in the table below.

Primary Disability	Total	Percent of ECSE Population
Auditory Impairment	13	3.631284916
Autism	35	9.776536313
Emotional Disturbance	0	0
Non-Categorical Early Childhood	52	14.52513966
Other Health Impaired	20	5.586592179
Orthopedic Impairment	1	0.279329609
Speech Impairment	232	64.80446927
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0
Visually Impaired	4	1.117318436

The number of children identified as eligible for services due to autism has stayed relatively stable. The number of children identified as Non-Categorical Early Childhood has increased. This category, unique to Texas as a replacement for Developmental Delay, includes children who meet the eligibility criteria for autism, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, or specific learning disability.

Within the community there are multiple home health agencies that provide services to children. An updated internet search revealed 10 agencies within the Denton ISD attendance area. Services provided include speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Five agencies were identified that provide services within the Denton ISD attendance area who have their business office outside of the Denton ISD attendance area. Criteria for services through home health differs from that used in the public school. MHMR of Denton County also provides services. Both the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University have programs at low cost that are available to the public.

MENTAL HEALTH

No significant changes within the community were noted in the area of Mental Health. This continues to be an area of emphasis for United Way and for the public school.

The City of Denton has a Social Work division as a part of its services structure. Services include Child Care Services; Emergency Assistance for Homeless or At-Risk Housing Assistance which includes a shelter for victims of domestic violence, Family Resources which includes CASA, Communities in School, and Children's Advocacy Center; Food Security Services; Senior Citizen Services and United Way;

and Health Care and Mental Health Services. Included within the Health Care and Mental Health Services which has a budget allotment of \$72,500 are the following services:

- Denton County MHMR (940) 381-5000 - \$18,000 for outreach to Suicide Survivors by LOSS Team who are onsite at the scene of a suicide to provide resources and hope to newly bereaved.
- Health Services of North Texas (940) 381-1501 - \$47,000 for low-cost, sliding-scale fee services for patients of all ages, including women's health and prenatal care. Services include treatment for acute & chronic physical and behavioral conditions, immunizations, well-visits, care management, and access to specialty care.
- PediPlace (972) 436-7962 \$7,500 for medical salaries, and medical care service delivery costs to children residing in Denton ages birth to 18 who are uninsured or qualify for Medicaid or CHIP benefits.

PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT UPDATES:

Our program uses the information from our Community Assessment Updates to help to plan our program's direction. It helps us to plan our focus/vision for the new year in a way to work toward meeting the current needs of our families in our service area. As we interview families upon entry into our program, we collect data to see what our families' greatest needs are. We then look to our community to identify the needed resources for our families in need.