

Thelma B Johnson Early Learning Center



School Readiness (see attached for details)

- Students scoring above the state average on Brigance
- Students demonstrated greater than 95% growth rate on Kentucky Early Childhood Standards in all domains of social/emotional, cognitive, physical, language, literacy, and math.

School Readiness Activities “Over and Above” foundational instruction **Research and/or evidence based activities

- 43% increase in preschool enrollment since opening of the facility.
- \$150,000.00 of tuition scholarships awarded through Preston Foundation.
- Expansion of early childhood services and opportunities through grants (including, but not limited to):
 - Imagination Library
 - *Kyndle-Community Foundation of Excellence*
 - *Early Childhood Council*
 - 1014 participating children
 - bornLearning
 - *United Way*
 - *Toyota*
 - *Early Childhood Council*
 - year 3
 - 40 families regularly attending
 - 4C Play and Learn
 - *Welborn Foundation*
 - *Public Library*
 - Year 3
 - 40 children regularly attending
 - Family Support Groups
 - *HCHS Spanish Student work study pilot group*
 - Latino (active)
 - Special Care (active)
 - Grandparents raising Grandchildren (grassroots)
 - Families with incarcerated parents (grassroots)
 - Families with children with Disabilities (grassroots)
 - 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
 - *Early Childhood Council*
 - *Public Library*
 - *KLA*
 - Pilot year
 - 10 families participating
 - Over 500 books read by each family in 6 months
 - Summer Reading Program
 - *Parks and Programs*
 - *2 Moms in Motion*
 - *Public Library*
 - *Early Childhood Council*
 - *Farmer’s Market Inclusion (with Health Department Vouchers)*
 - Average 130 in attendance
 - City Parks has requested second location on Thursdays summer 2016
 - Build-A-Bed Project
 - 10 beds in 4 hours
 - 100 Bedtime Baskets

- Fitness on the 5th
 - *Early Childhood Council*
 - *Public Library*
 - 3 sessions
 - 20 average family attendance
- Family Court Co-Parenting Literacy Partnership
 - 100 duplicate books in current “library”
 - Data pending completion of first year
- Barnes and Nobles Partnership
 - Saturday & Sunday events to generate money for additional books for family events
- Literacy Expansion to local privately owned childcares
 - *Early Childhood Council*
 - 20 minutes sessions
 - 5 centers
- Exposure to the Arts
 - Lexington Children’s Theatre-children’s fairytales
 - Brighton Troupe-diversity for winter holidays
 - Preshow Activities with *Henderson Arts Alliance*

Staff Accolades

- 11 Classrooms of Excellence
- 4 pursuing National Board Teacher Certification
- National presentation
 - “The Road to RTI in Preschool”
 - Speech Language Pathologists
 - Phoenix, Arizona
- State Presentations
 - “Engaging Parents through Fun Literacy Activities”
 - FRC Conference
 - Louisville, KY
 - “
 - “Building Blocks to Reading: Practical Material for Classroom and Home”
 - Ready Kids Conference
 - Louisville, KY
- Publications
 - *Diapers to Diplomas: A Marriage of Career Readiness and Early Childhood*, Kentucky School Leader, Spring/Summer 2013
 - *Preschool Science Integrated Lesson Planning*, Science Connection, 2013
 - *Tony Buzzeo extension lessons for preschool in her “Tools” and “Trucks” latest editions*
- Participation in Early Childhood Studies with Nobel Prize Laurette in Economics, Dr. James Heckman
 - “*Understanding and Comparing the Mechanisms Producing the Impacts of Early Childhood Programs*”
 - “*Analyzing the Influential Early Childhood Policies that are Proven to Promote Human Flourishing: Understanding Which Strategies Work (including a Cost-Benefit Analysis) and Why*”.

Financial Improvement

- Decrease in financial cost of program to school district from operating with 37.67% to 27.46% spent from general fund over a three year period.

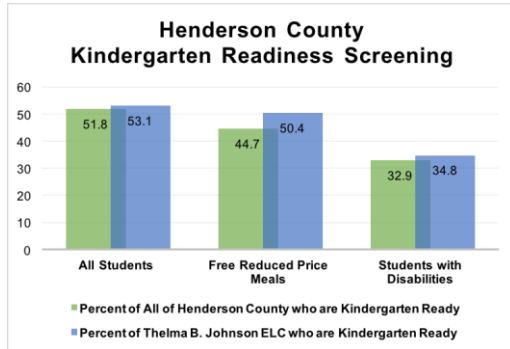
Collaboration with HCHS

- Successful Family Consumer Science Early Childhood Component
 - 10 students graduating with CDA (Child Development Associates Credential)
 - First 4 CDAs awarded at high school level at TBJ ELC
 - Nationally recognized instructor implementing program at TBJ ELC
- Successful Spanish Pilot Program
 - 3 students placed and utilized for Latino families and students

Kindergarten Readiness in Henderson County Above State Level

Early Learning Center Fares Better than State or County Percentage Overall and with Underserved Population

Of the 502 kindergarten students throughout Henderson County, 51.8% were ready for school according the BRIGANCE Kindergarten Readiness Screener, which was administered throughout the state for the third year. 306 of the total students attended Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center for preschool, of which 53.1% were ready for school. Both scores exceed the state average of 50.1%, according to announcement by the Kentucky Department of Education in December.



According to the Kentucky Department of Education, the BRIGANCE Kindergarten Screener provides teachers with key information early in the school year that they can use to guide instruction and close learning gaps before they have a chance to widen. The screener is aligned with both Kentucky's school readiness definition and Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards.

As part of the kindergarten screener, parents also were asked to fill out a survey about what type of setting the child was in the year before starting kindergarten, along with their child's social-emotional well-being. The questionnaire did not distinguish whether the program was a half-day or full-day program but did allow entering multiple prior settings and the dates the child participated.

The Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center is the only state-funded preschool in Henderson County and served 306 (61%) of the kindergartners throughout the district. The majority of the Early Learning Center's enrollment is made up of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch or students with disabilities. Ninety-six percent of the students enrolled for the 2015-16 school year met these qualifications. According the kindergarten screener, a greater percentage of students in these categories who attended the Early Learning Center are kindergarten ready as compared to the district as a whole.

Students who attend the Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center are assessed daily using the Teaching Strategies GOLD ® program, which monitors progress on the 52 Kentucky Early Childhood Standards. The data collected is analyzed for each student and as a program.

"We look at individual growth rates to determine the effectiveness of our program" notes Aleisha Sheridan, Administrator of the Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center. "A child may leave TBJ ELC without reaching levels that are *within the expected range for his developmental age*, but may have made great progress during the year. We work toward an *expected growth* benchmark for each child based on where he or she started at the beginning of the year."

The students at ELC met or exceeded their expected growth benchmarks as stated below in each category.

- Social-Emotional 97%
- Physical 94%
- Language 98%
- Cognition 98%
- Literacy 98%
- Mathematics 98%