

Madison Parish Ready Start



Blueprint

Introduction

Currently Madison Parish Ready Start is a community coalition comprised of early childcare and education programs; Delta Head Start/Early Head Start, Madison Parish School Board, Madison Parish Retired Teachers Association, Delta College-Tallulah Campus, and childcare providers committed to creating and implementing a vision to improve opportunities and inspire change for children ages birth to five in Madison Parish.

The Madison Parish Early Childhood Network consists of 4 active Type III Early Learning Centers, eighty-two (82), one School Board Elementary School with 4 pre-k, sixty (60), two Head Start Centers, one hundred and fourteen (114) and one Early Head Start center with 19 infants/toddlers. As of October 2022, in total, 275 children, birth to age five, are served through public funds in the community.

Madison Parish future is dependent on the success of its children and families, together we have an opportunity to transform the future of our parish in one generation. Access to quality early childcare and education programs ensures parents keep working or complete higher education and that children are on track to a brighter future.

The following are the preliminary changes of 2022-2023 Madison Community Wide Assessment: According to the 2022 U.S. Census update, since 2011, the population continues to decrease in Madison Parish.

Table 1: Geographic	U.S. Census Population by Parish										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Madison	12,100	11,972	12,206	11,899	11,805	11,575	11,528	11,528	11,161	10,951	9,799

U.S. Census Bureau, "Louisiana Quick Facts"	Louisiana	Madison
Population 2020 estimates	4,590,241	9,799
The Percentage of the Total Population in Poverty	19.6%	35.3%
Under Age 5	6.2%	6.6%
Under Age 18	23.4%	23.5%
Age 65 or Older	16.5%	15.5%
Married Couple with Children Under 5	7.1%	43.9%
Female Headed Household with Children Under 5	55%	76.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau July 2020 update

Poverty rates are higher in Louisiana than in the nation falling behind New Mexico and Mississippi. The 2022 U.S. Census update report estimated nearly 899,687 of Louisiana's 4.5 plus million residents lived below the federal poverty line (100%), about \$26,200 for a family of four.

As of July 2022, Louisiana had four parishes with more than 32% of their population living in poverty¹.

East Carroll, 39.9%	West Carroll, 21%	Tensas, 32.1%
Madison, 35.3%	Richland, 25%	

Poverty is also disproportionately concentrated along the Mississippi River’s rural communities and among African Americans. Child poverty, particularly among very young children, is also significantly higher in Louisiana than in the nation. According to 2022 Kids Count Data Center report, Louisiana ranks:

- 50 in the nation in its percentage of children living in poverty,
- 50 in the nation in overall child economic well-being,
- 48 in the nation in Education
 - 49% young children ages 3 and 4 not in school,
 - 74% fourth graders not proficient in reading,
 - 77% eighth graders not proficient in math, and
 - 20% High School students not graduating on time.
- 49 in the nation in its percentage of families with children living in single-parent households, and
- 49 in the nation children’s health and well-being.

In terms of overall child well-being, the top-performing states remained the same as last year, with Massachusetts leading the list, followed by New Hampshire (2) and Minnesota (3). Similarly, the lowest-ranked states remained the same but shuffled in rank. New Mexico fell one spot to 50, Louisiana fell one spot to 49 and Mississippi improved two spots to 48. The above data reflects that Madison Parish is one of those parishes with a significant amount of poverty.

The Analysis Access in Ready Start Madison Parish.

The data above reflects that investing in early childhood ensures children will have the foundation they need to learn and succeed. Further, the State’s overall system has the continued need for the Early Childhood Network to improve children’s scores in Madison Parish.

Limited day care facilities are available for the care of newborn, infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children at locations throughout Madison Parish. Currently there are children receiving kinship care, state childcare, foster homes, family day care homes and private day care as shown in **Table 2**.

¹ 2022 U.S. Census Update Poverty

Table 2: Enrolled in Public Funded Child Care, Family Day Care and Early Head Start

Parish	Family Day Care Homes	Publicly Funded Child-Care	Early Head Start
Broadway	-	18	-
Gultery	-	14	-
Kids Planet	-	24	-
Gigi Loving Touch Academy	-	26	-
Madison STEAM Academy	-	-	-
Delta CAA	114	-	19
Total	114	82	19

Source: 2020 Coordinated Enrollment - Oct 1 Child Count & Delta CAA Data

Local community enrollment data indicates that only 17 Infants, 32 Ones and 38 Twos are currently enrolled in early care and education program in Madison Parish. This is important because 90% of brain development occurs before age five. That means that if we are waiting to provide quality early care and education experiences until children arrive to preschool and/or kindergarten, we have missed out on the most critical period of child development. The following is the current enrollment for Head Start, Charter School and Public School:

Table 3: Service Area Pre-K Enrolled			
Parish	Head Start	Childcare	Public School Pre-K
Madison	114	4	60
Total	114	4	60

Source: 2022 Coordinated Enrollment - Oct 1 Child Count & Delta CAA Data

Local data from public school, Head Start and one Childcare Learning Center data indicates that 93 threes and 95 fours are currently enrolled in a public funded Pre-K program in Madison Parish.

Current State percentage of each age group based on need:

Table 4: Total Publicly Funded Children by Age						
Measure	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Total Publicly-Funded Children	281	298	241	245	255	-26
Infants Served	2	4	2	10	17	15
Ones Served	13	9	16	21	21	8
Twos served	20	21	17	25	39	8
Threes Served	110	150	85	76	83	-27
Fours Served	136	114	121	113	95	-41

Source: Louisiana Department of Education

Trends:

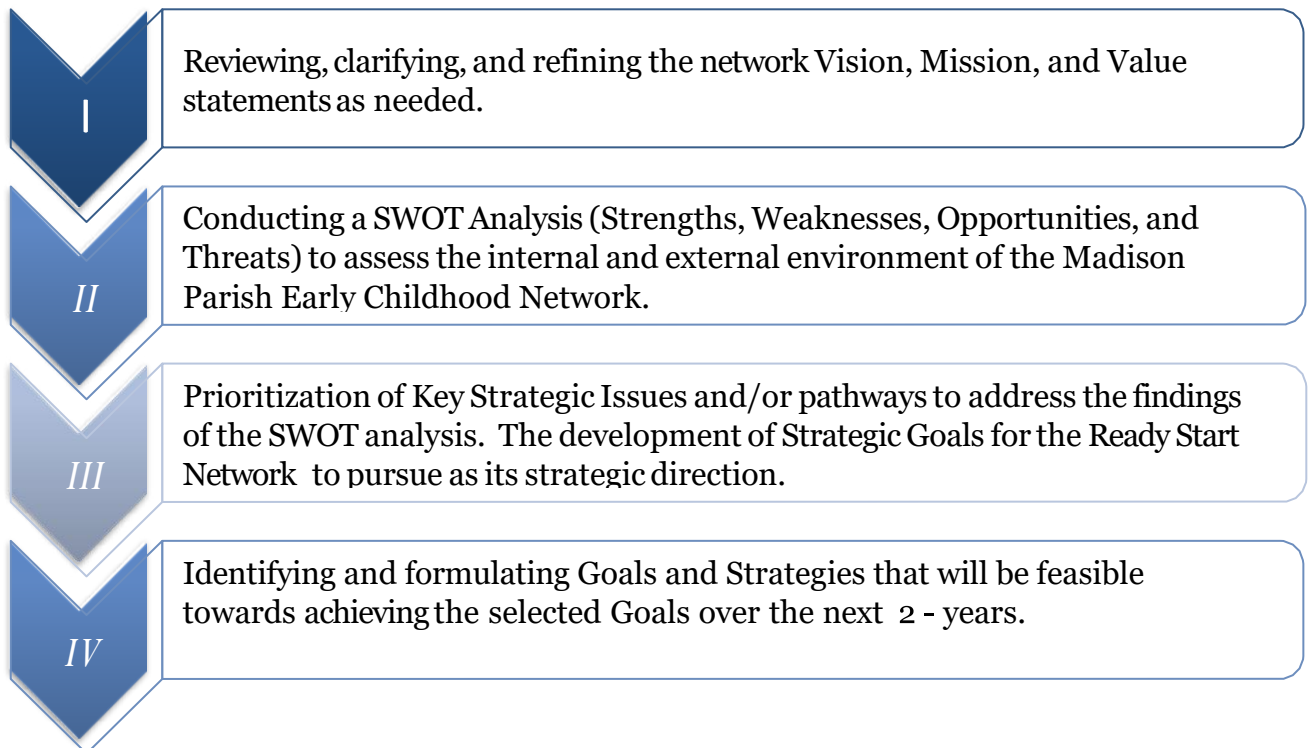
The total number of children served by the Madison School Board, Delta HS/EHS, Kids Planet, Gultery Day Care. Gigi Loving Touch Academy and Broadways Day Care, Family Day Care Homes, and Kinship Care indicates that most eligible pre-school age children are being served. Furthermore, Madison STEAM Academy is still pending final approval for NSECD Center. Therefore, based on the above data, approximately 60 publicly funded children birth to four years old are not being served in Madison Parish.

The following are common themes that continue to emerge across Madison Parish:

- Decrease in population (out-migration).
- Gaps in Infant and Toddler care.
- Decrease of one pre-k classroom in Tallulah Elementary.
- Decrease in 3 & 4-year-old population in Madison.
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of Jobs.
- Decrease in number of individuals able to meet job requirements.
- Migrant workers are being hired to work in agriculture industry.
- Declining retail establishments.
- Increase in drug/alcohol abuse and loss of local recovery center funding.

Overview of the Strategic Planning Process

The process adopted by Madison Parish Ready Start Network in the development of a 3-year Strategic Plan for implementation from 2022-2023 included four phases:



Guiding Statements

Vision:

Our vision is to educate Madison Parish children ages birth to five through unified efforts.

Mission:

Madison Parish Ready Start will engage the community to help provide high quality education in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment to enrich the growth and development of young children, which builds a foundation for life-long learning.

Core Value Statements:

Affirmed by the Madison Parish Ready Start Network Stakeholders

- Madison Ready Start Network believes a well-trained and committed early childhood care professional is best able to serve children birth to 5. Madison Ready Start Network continuously works on the personal and professional growth of each member of Delta Connection Early Childhood Network.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: To increase access to early care and education opportunities for Infants/Toddlers (I/T) in Madison Parish by 5% per year for the next 3 years.

Strategy:

1. Evaluate availability of current slots by age and early childhood center location.
2. Identify potential facilities to add additional slots.
3. Submit a Coordinated Funding opportunity request.
4. Delta HS/EHS will submit an EHS funding opportunity, when funds are available.

Resources:

Existing: Madison Parish currently has 3-Type III child care centers and 2-Head Start Centers and 1 Early Head Start Center serving economically disadvantaged children.

Performance Metrics: Measurement of number of seats served with public funding using October 1 and February 1 Child Count Reports compared to the Federal Poverty Line.

Goal 2: Each funding year, improve quality of the early care and education opportunities for lead teachers.

Strategy:

1. Increase the skills and knowledge base of Early Childhood professionals.
2. Ready Start Coach for all public funded programs (CLASS, Curriculum, TS GOLD).

Resources:

- Intentional professional development on the curriculum, assessment and screening tools are provided at least 2 times per year, but is needed more often. Coaching for daycare centers is provided by Resource and Referral, but needed more often.
- Intentional professional development on the Ages & Stages, TS GOLD and Mental Health checklist.
- Classrooms are not as well equipped in childcare centers as in schools. More science, math, and literacy materials are needed in childcare centers.
- **Existing:** Two Education experts providing best practice approaches to the network.
- **Needed:** Mentor Coach that will offer childcare technical assistance is needed in all areas of CLASS, Curriculum, screening tools such as Ages & Stages and TS GOLD.

Performance Metrics: Analyze Performance Profiles and teachers' CLASS scores to track the number of centers rated proficient or above.

Goal 3: Each funding year, improve quality of the parental involvement early care and education opportunities for families.

Strategy:

1. Increase the skills and knowledge base of Early Childhood for parents and/or families.
2. Implementation of Ready Rosie Curriculum for all public funded programs.

Resources:

- Intentional professional development on the curriculum is provided at least 2 times per year, but is needed more often. Coaching for daycare centers is provided by Resource and Referral, but needed more often.
- Classrooms are not as well equipped in childcare centers as in schools. More science math, and literacy materials are needed in childcare centers.
- **Existing:** Family and Community Engagement expert providing best practice approaches to the network.
- **Needed:** Mentor Coach that will offer childcare technical assistance is needed in all areas of CLASS, Curriculum and TS GOLD.

Performance Metrics: Analyze Performance Profiles and teachers' CLASS scores to track the number of centers rated proficient or above.

Goal 4: Continue to increase community awareness of early childcare in Madison Parish to increase resources

- Improve the Madison Early Childhood Network website.
- Utilize social media.
- Coordinate enrollments events throughout the year.
- Evaluate current marketing strategies.
- Develop a Marketing Plan.
- Implement Marketing Plan.

Resources:

- **Existing:** Madison Early Childhood Network currently holds one coordinated enrollment event per year. The event is held during the month of March at each partners location with daily reports to Lead Agency.
- **Needed:** A Ready Start Network website created by a web designer and updated frequently by a social media specialist responsible for developing and implementing marketing and customer care strategies through the use of social media. The specialist would be responsible for maintaining the public image of early childcare on the internet through mediums such as Facebook.

Performance Metrics: Track childcare centers, Head Start/Early Head Start, Charter School and school site enrollment monthly to see if social media and recruitment events are attracting more children.

Measurement of number of seats served with public funding using October 1 and February 1 Child Count Reports compared to the Federal Poverty Line.

Goal 5: Find and develop local/state funding to support strategy implementation

Strategy:

1. Conduct a community assessment.
2. Work with a professional fundraising group.
3. Develop a strategic plan.
4. Develop and execute strategic plan and fundraising plan.
5. Increase marketing of School Readiness Tax Credits to community.
6. Assess outcome results.

Resources:

Existing: None

Needed:

- Increase community support through local partnerships.
- Marketing budgets funding or tactics.

Performance Metrics: Funding budget measured annually through local and School Readiness Tax Credit donations.