



Visionering Wichita Birth - K Strategic Alliance Summary of Accomplishments to Date September 2007

The Birth – K Strategic Alliance continues to have strong representation in a wide variety of parents, grandparents, service providers, educators, community foundations and other community volunteers who have a strong interest in early childhood issues.

The Alliance continues to work on the development of an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems plan for the Wichita MSA. They have developed goals, objectives and strategies that are currently being edited in preparation for submission to the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund in January 2008. Work has also taken place that will allow each county in the MSA have an individualized plan for Early Childhood Services.

Following a conference hosted by the Kansas Health Foundation in June regarding framing messages, Sedgwick and Harvey Counties were invited to apply for a \$10,000 grant from Kansas Action for Children. This grant will focus on education of community leaders and legislators on the importance of investing in Early Childhood programs and initiatives. The Alliance has agreed to apply on behalf of the Wichita MSA so that Sumner and Butler counties may benefit from the efforts being developed. The Alliance will work in close partnership with leadership in Harvey County to maximize impact and resources.

The Birth-K Alliance is also currently developing a proposal to be presented to the Unified Legislative Alliance in November.

Strategic Alliance Strategy

Expect all children to enter kindergarten ready to learn at the kindergarten level by:

- a) Identifying reading deficiencies early and help birth-K parents and teachers with programs that result in each child being ready for kindergarten.
- b) Improving access to birth-K programs including Headstart, educational daycare, etc.
- c) Including programs for parents and children to address language skills and social development of birth-K within the community.
- d) Providing more qualified pre-school teachers in daycare and birth-K programs.

Strategic Alliance Benchmark

To develop a plan for an Early Childhood System for south central Kansas so that all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

Education Foundation Vision Supported

Before 2024 the Wichita MSA will have a globally competitive educational system that encourages and supports life-long learning and contributes to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our diverse community.

Key Benchmark Targeted

Education: All schools and districts meet the Kansas Adequate Yearly Progress Plan (AYP) each year.

“In just a few months our alliance has come a long way. Before we formed as an alliance we watched from afar the work of Visionering and how their process forged collaborative efforts. At our very first meeting, our alliance members put down their personal/organizational barriers because we knew we wanted to work together regionally. It only makes sense. This would not have happened a few short years ago.”

Birth-K Strategic Alliance Leadership Team