

2013

It has been a big year for Ready At Five. The early childhood system in Maryland became more robust; 82% of children entered kindergarten ready to be successful.

VIOLETS, an intensive early literacy program was made available to more children across the state. We created more community/business partnerships than ever to support school readiness, strengthened the knowledge and skills of more than 400 early educators, (READ MORE INSIDE)



shared the latest knowledge about school readiness with more early childhood professionals, and increased our revenues to make progress towards our goal of all Maryland kindergartners being ready to succeed in school.

Here is how Ready At Five made our presence count in 2013:

5,300

young children enrolled in child care, Head Start and PreK classrooms throughout Maryland's 24 jurisdictions have participated in VIOLETS (Vocabulary Improvement and Oral Language Enrichment Through Stories), an exciting early childhood language curriculum that uses storytelling and coaching to strengthen young children's language skills. In 2013, VIOLETS, which is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education, added more than 75 new classrooms for a total of 317 statewide. To date, English Language Learners and children with low expressive language skills, who have been exposed to VIOLETS, have made significant language gains.

More than 425 early educators have received professional development in the VIOLETS curriculum. This year, we equipped VIOLETS assessors, who evaluate the skills of participating children, with tablets to more effectively pre and -post document young children's language development. We expect to add 70 more classrooms through federal Race to the Top funding. This program has seen increased buy-in among Maryland's 24 school systems, and enjoys a steady increase in philanthropic dollars for further expansion.

31

inspirational School Readiness Symposia featuring national experts speaking on crucial early childhood education topics have been presented by Ready At Five since 2001. Symposia have included:

- December 2013's "Promoting Better Outcomes for Maryland's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Young Children," led by well-known advocates Felicia DeHaney, Ph.D. and Lisa Lopez, Ph.D., and
- May 2013's "D is for Digital: New Vast Wasteland or Learning Oasis?" featuring media expert and White House advisor Michael Levine, Ph.D., and noted scholar Lisa Guernsey, Early Childhood Program Director of the New America Foundation.

Through 2013, 4,700 public school early care and education stakeholders, early childhood practitioners, librarians, higher education deans and directors, and state and local Infant and Toddler and ELL leaders have attended and benefited from Ready At Five's symposia sponsored by PNC Bank. These programs have featured 65 scholars from institutions of higher education and researchers who have brought their expertise to Maryland audiences. As a result, the powerful influence of the symposia's research, recommendations, impact on practitioners' growth, and usefulness for classrooms and policy has spread throughout Maryland.





11,000

parents and children have participated in Ready At Five Learning Parties throughout Maryland since 2008. These fun, creative family engagement events help parents to be more effective as their children's first teachers, using curricula built on Language & Literacy, Math, Play, Science, Social & Emotional Development, and The Arts. At each Learning Party, parents work with highly-skilled trainers to learn techniques to improve their children's skills and abilities, and then practice these on site with their children. Parents also get to talk with and learn from other parents, and they leave with developmentally appropriate books, materials, and educational toys to use with their children at home.

4+

new partners joined Ready At Five's efforts in 2013 enriching our strong community of partners and stakeholders that help us make school readiness a reality for more Maryland children.

We have been delighted to work with:

- the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in the development of Health Learning Parties;
- the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in developing and launching the innovative Music Box Series that delights and musically educates young children from six months to three years of age;
- the Rotary Club of Hagerstown which embraced Language and Literacy Parties for families and children as part of their commitment to strengthening children's language and literacy skills;
- IBM, through the use of their IBM® SmartCloud™ software to connect Maryland's 24 Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils to Ready At Five, to MSDE and to one another.

In 2013, Ready At Five opened the potential to reach thousands more children through new partnerships.

“Ready At Five makes a compelling case for wider support of early childhood education, and has created innovative, research-based programs that provide tangible results for our young Marylanders. Through our expanding partnerships and relationships across the state, we have the opportunity to make even greater progress towards school readiness for every child in our state.”

Meredith Callanan, Chair, Ready At Five Executive Leadership Committee

10,000

public school teachers, administrators, parents, community advocates, education professionals, and political leaders received Getting Ready 2013, the annual Maryland school readiness report created by Ready At Five in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Every school year, Getting Ready provides the Maryland education community with the latest data on the school readiness of kindergarteners, as well as an explanation of what the data mean: progress made, patterns and challenges revealed, and issues and changes in practice and policy to be considered. Through live presentations and online and print versions of the report, Getting Ready helps to stimulate Maryland's yearly progress toward greater school readiness for all kindergarteners.

“Preparing pre-kindergarteners to succeed in school has never been more essential to their futures, and Ready At Five is the key force bringing together partners from education, business and communities for the benefit of our children. Without Ready At Five, Maryland would not have our remarkable record of collaborative accomplishments in early childhood education.”

Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

The importance of early care and education is now in the national spotlight. Momentum is growing at the national, state and jurisdictional levels. It has been a long time coming. Thank you for your support in 2013 and beyond in making every initiative and every dollar count. Together, you and Ready At Five can keep moving Maryland toward a future in which every child enters kindergarten ready to succeed.

Ready At Five gratefully acknowledges the many individuals, corporations, foundations, local school systems, organizations, as well as The Maryland State Department of Education that supported our programs, professional development and events. Their monetary and in-kind support have allowed us to bring our success to scale and to advance early childhood education in Maryland.

51%

growth took place in Ready At Five's revenues in 2013 compared with 2012 (and 67% growth compared with just five years ago) as we moved toward our goals of full school readiness for all children and strengthened early childhood education across Maryland. This reflects both our efforts to cultivate new partnerships and our active participation in the federal Race to the Top – Early Childhood Challenge Grant, which is helping Maryland to build a stronger, more comprehensive early childhood system.



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