building momentum

2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Over 500 early educators, policymakers, and business leaders attended our 3 School Readiness Symposia, gaining critical information and new knowledge.

650 parents and their children built skills through Learning.

Making an Impact

In 2016

farewell

I am very proud of the successes Ready At Five has accomplished over my 15 years as Executive Director. Together, we focused on what is essential for youngsters to be school ready. We empowered the families of Maryland’s youngest learners and the early childhood practitioners to be engaged and take action. We advanced the development of an outstanding early care and education system that leads to successful outcomes for young children. And, we elevated the discussion, practice and quality of early childhood education in Maryland.

Ready At Five’s past successes include Readiness Matters – annual reports on the state of Maryland’s school readiness, 32 School Readiness Symposia, the Vocabulary Improvement and Oral Language Enrichment through Stories (VIOLETS) and PETALS language development programs, the Cultural and Linguistic Competence curriculum, the nine-part Learning Party curricula, 10 Issue Insights Business Briefs, and hundreds of parent resources, including the Parents Matter series, monthly ParentTips, and the School Readiness Activity Cards. We have made a difference for our youngest learners and the future of our communities. But, there is still much work before us, and I encourage you to continue this important work with us.

Warm Regards,
Louise Corwin, Executive Director, Ready At Five (2001-2016)
Parties and ReadyRosie, an online family engagement tool. Over 125 schools and programs used Ready At Five’s Math and STEM Institutes and other professional learning opportunities.

Readiness Matters 2016-2017 publications highlighted the status of kindergarten readiness in Maryland. All Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions were given resources and supports to improve outcomes for children.

hello friends

We are excited to begin Ready At Five’s 25th year in supporting families, educators, and early learning programs! We have trained thousands of early childhood educators and engaged thousands of families so that more children are ready to succeed in school and in life. We are grateful for the leadership of Louise Corwin as Executive Director.

As Louise says, Ready At Five has had many successes over the years. Today though, we are faced with an urgent call to action to help our youngest learners thrive in school. Last fall, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) revealed that only 43% of Maryland’s children entered kindergarten with the foundational knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to fully participate in the kindergarten curriculum. Nearly one in five kindergarteners is not prepared with the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional skills necessary to succeed in school. Gaps continue to persist for our most vulnerable children. We can – and we must – do better.

For children to be ready for long-term school and life success, we must all strive for ready and engaged families, ready and committed communities, and ready and effective early learning programs. Ready At Five works with Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to ensure that more children - especially children with disabilities, dual language learners, and those who are from low-income families – get the strong start they need to succeed in school and in life.

It’s a matter of equity for our children and economic prosperity for our state and nation.

Please join us.

Steven R. Hicks, Executive Director, Ready At Five
Meredith Callanan, Executive Leadership Committee Chair, Ready At Five

“High-quality early childhood experiences are the foundation for school success and life achievements. We count on Ready At Five to help us support better outcomes for Maryland’s youngest students. Ready At Five is a strong collaborative partner in analyzing and using the kindergarten assessment data to support families, elevate the early childhood profession, provide research-based professional learning opportunities, and advocate for children and families. Their efforts are critical to the Department’s work.”

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools
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“Ready At Five gratefully acknowledges and thanks the individual donors, corporations, foundations, school systems, organizations and the Maryland State Department of Education for their financial and in-kind support allowing us to strengthen, expand, and enrich our programs, curricula, professional learning, events, and advocacy across the state and nationally. We also value the indispensable commitment of the many volunteers who devote their time and energy to helping ensure more of Maryland’s children are ready to succeed in school and in life.”