Message From Our Executive Director -
Maryland's Children Are Counting On Us!

Happy March! This time last year, I was promoting the Town Hall meetings and encouraging you to attend to have your voice heard. We heard a lot of voices and they informed Ready At Five's work and impacted MSDE's strategic planning efforts at the state level. What is most important is the difference you made by being a part of the conversation. Thank you!

My message also includes a request: Look carefully at the Maryland Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data from your jurisdiction. Do you live in a location where all students are assessed or where there is a sample of students assessed? Where are the improvements occurring in your community? What do you notice in the data that is being reported for the children where you live? Once you have answered those questions, I encourage you to have a conversation about them. Maybe with another parent, a childcare provider or a teacher.
Our data explorer can help you make comparisons with last year's data. Take advantage of it! Remember, data doesn't help us to move the needle forward unless we use it to inform our thinking and our work. No assessment is perfect, but the results can be a great conversation starter for all of us to ask, "In addition to the KRA results, what else do I know about this community and its children?" Our kids need us to take the time to highlight their unique strengths and identify specific barriers to guide priorities moving forward.

Maryland's children are counting on all of us to do nothing less.

Registration is Now Open!
Give Them The Freedom To Unlock Their Future - Start Their Journey with $250 or $500 from the State!

The State of Maryland and Maryland 529 are teaming up to help make it easier for your child's dream of attending college come true. Simply open an Account in the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan (also referred to as the Maryland College Investment Plan or MCIP)-managed by T. Rowe Price-a leading investment firm since 1937-and you could be eligible for a $250 or $500 contribution from the State of Maryland. Your savings can be used at nearly any U.S. college, technical or trade school, apprenticeship programs, and even international universities that have a federal school code-for qualified eligible expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board, etc.

Get Started Today

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The Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement provides investment objectives, risks, expenses and costs, fees, and other information you should read and consider carefully before investing. If you or your beneficiary live outside of Maryland, you should compare Maryland 529 to any college savings program offered by your home state or your beneficiary's home state, which may offer state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan.

T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc., Distributor/Underwriter.

Baltimore City Residents are Offered the Governor's Young Reader's Program

The Governor's Office for Children and Children's Cabinet, in partnership with the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, offer the Governor's Young Readers Program to the residents of Baltimore City. Through this program, children from birth through their 5th birthday are mailed a
2019-20 Kindergarten Data and Data Explorer Released!

Statistics in Schools Program

Statistics in Schools is a free program from the U.S. Census Bureau offering data, tools, and activities that correspond with relevant education standards and guidelines and that use real-life census information for teachers to incorporate into their lesson plans. Through this program, students can connect the world around them to what they are learning in the classroom. Use of Statistics in Schools in lesson plans helps students gain important skills, such as understanding statistics and analyzing data, in a variety of subjects - including history, geography, sociology, and math - at multiple grade levels.
To learn more, visit www.census.gov/schools.

Giant Food Giving Bag Program

We were thrilled to have been chosen to participate in the Giant Food Community Bag Program where we raised $56 for Ready At Five in the month of December.

Even better news is that Ready At can still raise funds all year long through the
Giant Food Giving Tag Program! Just go to ANY Giant Food location and purchase the $2.50 reusable Community Bag and turn the Giving Tag (attached to the bag) over to the back side and scratch it off to reveal your unique code. Then visit MyGiantFoodCause.com within 7 days of purchase and submit your code to select Ready At Five as the recipient of the $1 donation!

It's that easy and it helps us with our work to ensure that every child in Maryland have the foundational skills needed for success in school, career and life.

Check out Ready At Five's School Readiness Activity Card on helping your child Grow Strong and Healthy!
Healthy Media Habits Learning Party Training

Created by MPT and Ready At Five, the Healthy Media Habits Learning Party is designed to give parents and caregivers fun and engaging strategies for developing healthy media and technology habits from the start, and to practice modeling these strategies at home and on-the-go. Early Childhood Educators attended a Healthy Media Habits Learning Party training and will be piloting the learning parties in their jurisdictions this spring.

Did You Know? Title 1 Funds Can Be Used to Meet the Requirements for Family Engagement Including Ready At Five's Learning Parties!

Title I, Part A is contained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This legislation reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Title I, Part A is a federal program that provides financial assistance to local school systems and schools with high percentages of poor children to support the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. All twenty-four local education agencies in Maryland receive Title I funds. These funds provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children who attend Title I schools master challenging curricula and meet state standards. Title I funds support extra instruction in reading and mathematics, additional teachers, materials of instruction, as well as after-school and summer programs to extend and reinforce instruction during the school year.
Learning Parties are interactive, hands-on, parent/child parties that promote young children's development of school readiness skills. Based on the belief that parents are their child's first teacher, Learning Parties teach parents how to make everyday moments learning moments through playing, singing, talking, reading, and engaging in fun activities. Originally developed by Children's Resources International and modified by Ready At Five, the Learning Party curricula support the seven domains of learning: Language & Literacy, Math, Science, Social Foundations, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, Social Studies and Fine Arts, in addition to the Parent Leadership Learning Party which was developed in collaboration with experts at EPIC (Every Person Influences Children). Parent Leadership Learning Party materials were developed with Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood, as part of the Family Engagement Initiative, funded through a grant opportunity with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Look for more Learning Parties Coming Soon!

Featured Resources

**Ready At Five Has What You're Looking For - School Readiness Publications!**

Please [click here](#) for the order form or visit our [website](#) to find out about the [programs](#) and [resources](#) that we offer.
Help us as we work to ensure that all children in Maryland have the foundational skills needed for future success in school, career and life.

Ready At Five is a self-sustaining program of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT), and does not receive funding from the MBRT. One-time or monthly donations of $100 or more are sought and gratefully accepted to expand Ready At Five's impact. To contribute this; or any, amount click here

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The early years matter!

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