

Early Childhood Vision

Committee of the Whole
Salem School Committee
June 18th, 2018

SPS Strategic Planning Committee: Early Childhood June 2016 - February 2017

Co-Chair Margaret Marotta
Co-Chair Charity Lezama - Salem YMCA Executive Director
Dena Bailey- Speech therapist
Amy Richardson - Teaching and Learning Salem Public Schools
Andrea French - Salem Special Needs Parent Advisory Council President
Leanne Smith - Witchcraft Elementary School
Berta Tavares - Salem Parent Outreach
Nancy Charest - Salem Early Childhood Center
Joyce Parent - Parent Child Home Program
Dr. Brendan Walsh - Salem School Committee
Nicole Brunelle - Salem Grade 1 teacher
Debbie Bishop and Cammie Jeffers - Pathways

Committee Recommendations

Priority Areas:

Working with Partners

- We will work to identify all potential partners in supporting the whole child through early education.
- We will establish systems of communication and clear parameters of support

Working with Families

- Develop a relationship with the community and find families in order to inform and recruit them to learn what early childhood services are available.

Working with Schools

- To build a solid foundation that ensures success from pre-K to grade 3.

Public Awareness

- Putting information out
- Inform the broader community about importance of early intervention and what K-readiness entails, and the potential group is aware of a range of interventions, and expectations for readiness

City Data

- 93 current families on waitlist for voucher 0-4
- 16 center based programs and 46 family providers
- There are 1268 ages 3-5 in Salem
- 71% children 3 and 4 are enrolled in some sort of preschool/daycare program 29% with no prior Early childhood experience

Progress/Opportunities

- Early Learning Planning Grant - in partnership with the Salem Y, Strategies for Children and EEC
- United Way Drive Program
- Still some research to be done on where/what the gap is

Salem YMCA

- Downtown Location
 - Licensed Program serving 60 children, ages infant through preschool
 - Providing scholarship assistance to 40% of enrolled children
- Salem High School
 - Licensed childcare for 36 (infants through preschool ages)
 - Serving High School parents (6 in 2017-2018 School Year)
 - Serving Salem Teachers with reduced cost programming