Blueprint

April 28, 2022

Introduction

The Lafayette Parish Network consists of 53 Type III Early Learning Centers, 75 LPSS Pre-K classrooms at 22 elementary schools, 2 Non-public Schools of Early Childhood Development (NSECD), and 2 Head Start and Early Head Start sites. As of October 2021, in total, 2536 children, birth to age five, are served through public funds in the community. Tier I Curriculum use has increased from 39% to 95% since 2017. The Network has made steady growth on the annual performance profiles over the last four years, increasing from 4.76 to 5.28 out of 7.[1] Performance Profile scores across the community also continue to rise annually. Since 2015, no sites in the Network have been rated unsatisfactory.

The Lafayette Parish Early Childhood Ready Start Network is a coalition of individuals committed to creating and implementing a bold local vision for early childhood. Ready Start Lafayette supports quality early childhood. This means that all children, wherever they receive care, are in a safe, caring and nurturing environment with qualified professionals that help children successful engage the world around them, not only for today but also for their future.

The research is clear - ninety percent of brain development happens before the age of five. In addition, two out of three Louisiana families have both parents working. Louisiana must provide quality early childhood experiences to build on that potential and ensure families have the supports they need. The fastest way to do this is for local communities to develop local solutions that reflect their unique needs.

Louisiana is ranked 8th in the country for its early childhood education policies; a fact about which we should be proud. Even with this achievement, there continues to be significant access and quality challenges. Ready Start Lafayette will build on our success by bringing local community members together to create, implement, and support early childhood to address these challenges.

Driven by local data and context, Ready Start Lafayette will do this in three key ways: develop intentional plans, secure and weave together resources, and implement creative solutions. Lafayette's future is tied to the success of its children and today we have the opportunity to transform our future in one generation. Everyone has a shared responsibility to support the economy of today and shape the workforce of tomorrow. Working together, we can ensure our community thrives.

Guiding Statements

Vision: High quality early care and education available to all children in Lafayette Parish

Mission: Improve the quality of early care and education of children from Birth to age 5 in Lafayette Parish through providing professional development, network of providers and community awareness.

[1] Due to the implications of COVID-19, the Lafayette Network Classroom Quality Rating score was not published for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 accountability years.

[2] Application count data is based as of 12.16.2021. Applications are accepted year round, thus more applications may be received from January 2022 – June 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Strategic Plan

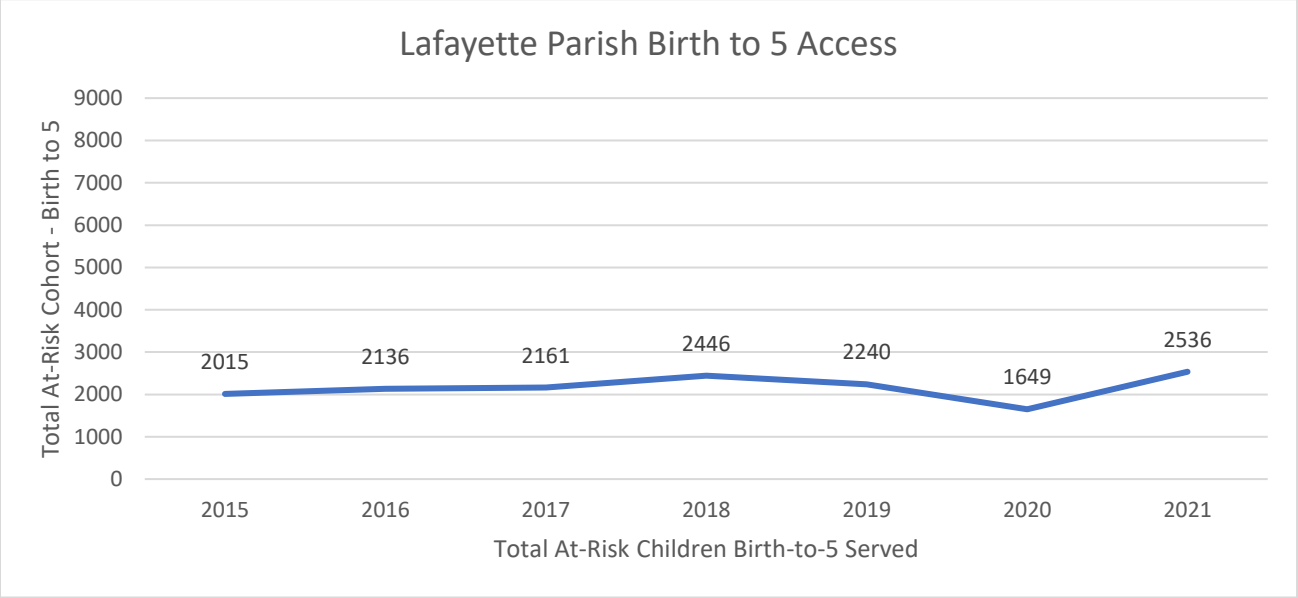
Goal 1: To increase access to early care and education seats in Lafayette Parish by 5% per year for 5 years for a total of 25% increased access through local, state, federal funding.

- Apply for all local, state and federal funding opportunities available to the Network
- Recruit Type I and Type II Early Learning Centers to become Type III for more seat availability
- Use fundraising from local fundraising efforts to increase capacity of locally funded seats

Resources:

- **Existing:**
  - Data of currently served economically disadvantaged children in the parish
- **Needed:**
  - Data of existing capacities in current programs

Performance Metrics: Measurement of number of seats served with public funding using October 1 and February 1 Child Count Reports compared to the current at risk economically disadvantaged cohort of 200% of Federal Poverty Line.



[1] *Due to the implications of COVID-19, the Lafayette Network Classroom Quality Rating score was not published for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 accountability years.*
[2] *Application count data is based as of 12.16.2021. Applications are accepted year round, thus more applications may be received from January 2022 – June 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.*

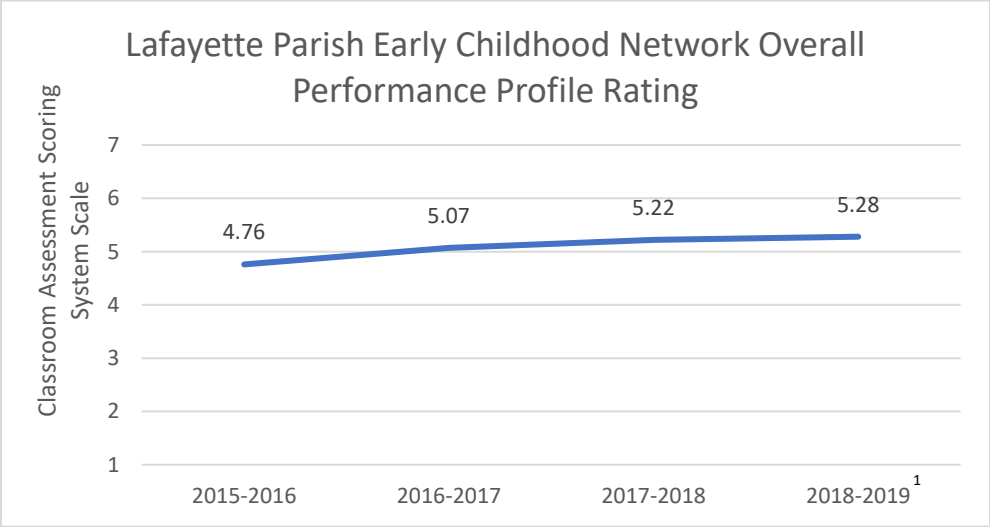
Goal 2: To increase the Lafayette Network Overall Performance Profile average by a minimum of 0.05 points annually.

- Use CLASS observation data to measure teacher, site, and program quality
- Prioritize resources and professional development at all levels based on data and needs of teachers, sites, and programs
- Utilize all funding sources, LDE Curriculum Initiative, and School Readiness Tax Credits through Child Care Resource and Referral Agency to ensure all classrooms have access to Tier 1 Curricula.
- Establish and implement a professional learning community focused on increasing access to high quality instructional support for administrators of programs

Resources:

- **Existing:**
  - Data of Network, Programs, and Sites since 2015
  - Capacity to offer Professional Learning to teachers and administrators
    - CLASS Infant, Toddler, & Pre-K Affiliate Observation Trainers
    - My Teaching Partner Coaches
    - My Teachstone Coaches
    - Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI) instructors
      - Infants & Toddlers
      - Pre-K
- **Needed:**
  - Development of coursework to support administrators as instructional leaders
  - Development of coursework to support administrators as business leaders
  - Continued buy in from programs to provide high quality professional learning opportunities to staff

Performance Metrics: CLASS data measured through classroom observations in all infant, toddler and pre-k classrooms within the parish.



[1] Due to the implications of COVID-19, the Lafayette Network Classroom Quality Rating score was not published for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 accountability years.
[2] Application count data is based as of 12.16.2021. Applications are accepted year round, thus more applications may be received from January 2022 – June 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.

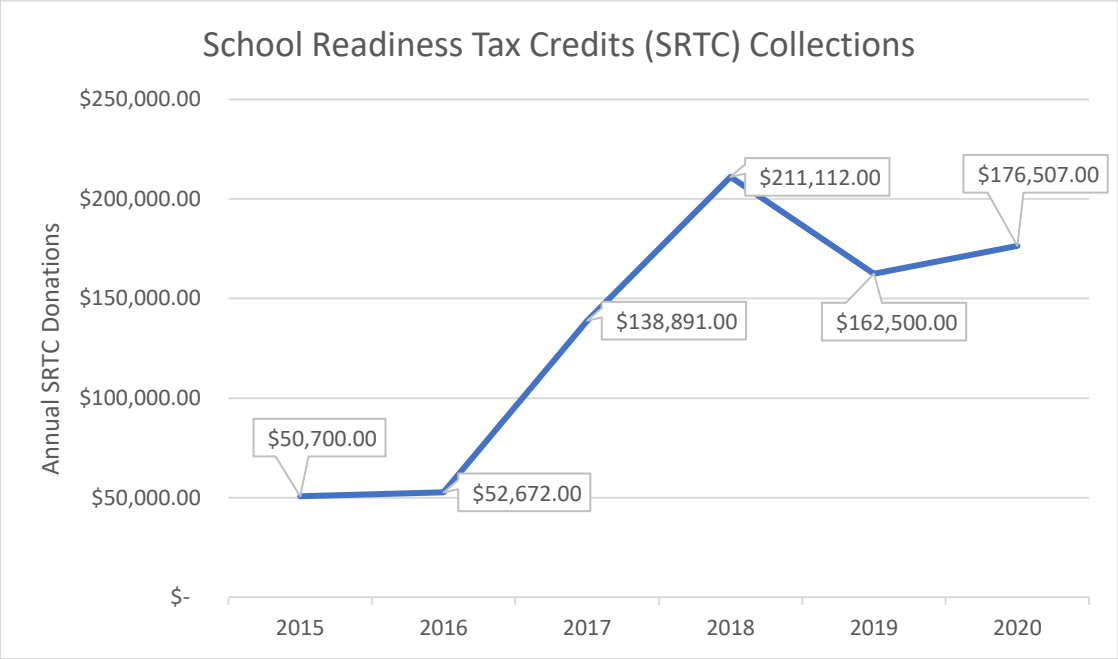
Goal 3: To increase the fundraising budget of Lafayette Parish through School Readiness Tax Credits and local fundraising efforts by 20% annually.

- Increase marketing of School Readiness Tax Credits to community
- Create strategic plan of fundraising and how the funding will be used
- Promote current use of funding using marketing and engagement tactics

Resources:

- Existing:
  - Marketing and Development Specialist working with community and CPAS
  - Support of some local community agencies through partnerships
- Needed:
  - Marketing budgets funding or tactics
  - Increased community support through local partnerships

Performance Metrics: Funding budget measured annually through local and School Readiness Tax Credit donations



[1] *Due to the implications of COVID-19, the Lafayette Network Classroom Quality Rating score was not published for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 accountability years.*
[2] *Application count data is based as of 12.16.2021. Applications are accepted year round, thus more applications may be received from January 2022 – June 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.*

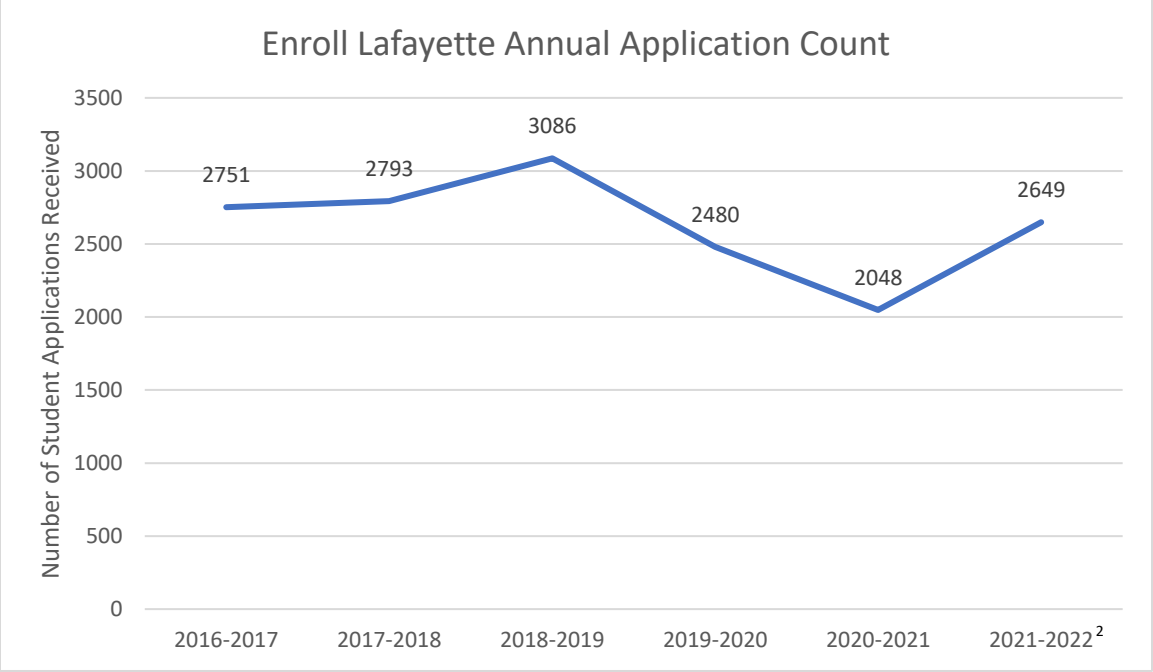
Goal 4: To increase family awareness of early care and education opportunities for children 0-5 within Lafayette Parish by 5% annually.

- Revise the current marketing campaign to include new tactics
- Utilize networking of community partners to support local efforts

Resources:

- Existing:
  - Coordinated Enrollment committee established since 2013
  - Marketing budget to advertise in community
  - Support of some local community agencies through partnerships
- Needed:
  - New strategies to market families
  - Increased community support through local partnerships

Performance Metrics: Number of applications received annually by coordinated enrollment website www.enrolllafayette.com



[1] Due to the implications of COVID-19, the Lafayette Network Classroom Quality Rating score was not published for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 accountability years.
[2] Application count data is based as of 12.16.2021. Applications are accepted year round, thus more applications may be received from January 2022 – June 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.