



Visioneering Wichita Birth - K Strategic Alliance Summary of Accomplishments to Date May 2007

The Birth – K Strategic Alliance continues to have strong representation a wide variety of parents, grandparents, service providers, educators, community foundations and other community volunteers who have a strong interest in early childhood issues.

The Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council received an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Grant from the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust fund that began in January. This grant will focus on the Wichita MSA and the B-K Alliance will direct the development of the plan on behalf of the South Central Region as well as the four individual counties.

In March, the Alliance began gathering data in accordance with the Planning Grant requirement for a needs assessment. This process will continue into April and the Alliance will begin to establish an early childhood “Vision” for each of the four counties within the Wichita MSA and for the region.

Also in March, the Wichita community was selected to participate in the Kansas Health Foundation Leadership Conference that is scheduled for mid-June. The selected team includes local leaders in Early Childhood, local Foundations, Higher Education, Social Services, and the business community. National presenters, including The FrameWorks Institute, will introduce tools for framing messages around early childhood development to increase the awareness of the importance of investing in this essential time in the lives of Kansas children. Team members will also learn what the community can do to help our state maximize the potential of its most valuable assets—our children.

Strategic Alliance Strategy

Expect all children to enter kindergarten ready to learn at the kindergarten level by:

- a) Identifying reading deficiencies early and help birth-K parents and teachers with programs that result in each child being ready for kindergarten.
- b) Improving access to birth-K programs including Headstart, educational daycare, etc.
- c) Including programs for parents and children to address language skills and social development of birth-K within the community.
- d) Providing more qualified pre-school teachers in daycare and birth-K programs.

Strategic Alliance Benchmark

To develop a plan for an Early Childhood System for south central Kansas so that all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

Education Foundation Vision Supported

Before 2024 the Wichita MSA will have a globally competitive educational system that encourages and supports life-long learning and contributes to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our diverse community.

Key Benchmark Targeted

Education: All schools and districts meet the Kansas Adequate Yearly Progress Plan (AYP) each year.

“In just a few months our alliance has come a long way. Before we formed as an alliance we watched from afar the work of Visioneering and how their process forged collaborative efforts. At our very first meeting, our alliance members put down their personal/organizational barriers because we knew we wanted to work together regionally. It only makes sense. This would not have happened a few short years ago.”

Birth-K Strategic Alliance Leadership Team