

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026



Mission

Oconee County First Steps works to prepare children for success in school.

Vision

All pre-school children in Oconee County will be ready for success from day 1 of Kindergarten.

Values

Children

Relationships

High Quality

Results

Strategic Plan Process

CONVENE

Held community convenings to develop a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023



PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023



PLAN

Wrote the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023



APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



Priority Needs: Summary

Through a series of community convenings, a needs assessment and asset mapping process, the following needs were prioritized for Oconee County. See our full needs assessment here:

<https://www.scfirststeps.org/media/mxbmktnl/oconee-county-fy24-26-needs-assessment.pdf>

- 1. Kindergarten Readiness**
- 2. Early Intervention**
- 3. Gap in Kindergarten Readiness between White and Black/Hispanic kindergarteners.**

Objectives

- 1. More children enter Kindergarten demonstrating readiness.**
- 2. Oconee County's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities.**
- 3. Close Equity Gaps: A Fair Chance for Every Child**

Objective One: More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness.

STRATEGY 1.1

Proactively work to increase the number of kindergarteners demonstrating readiness.

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By FY26, the percentage of Oconee County Children who score the highest level of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase 2% each year from 29% to 35%.
2. By FY25, Oconee County First Steps will partner with at least 2 schools to increase access to early literacy where the need is the greatest. By FY26 we will have increased the number of schools to 4.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SDOC, United Way, Baby Read, The Library System of Oconee County, Head Start, Faith Community, Community volunteers.

Objective One: More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness.

STRATEGY 1.2

School Transition

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Implement C2K summer FY23 with the percentage of participating children increasing 2% each year.
2. Implement C2-4K in summer of FY24 with the percentage of children participating increasing 2% each year.
3. Create a School Readiness council to connect local day Care Centers, Private schools and the Public schools and collaborate on school readiness.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SDOC, South Carolina First Steps, SC Pre-K4, Local Child Care Centers and Home Care centers..

STRATEGY 1.3

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Increase the registration in The Dolly Parton Imagination Library from 49% to 60%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SDOC, Library System of Oconee County, Baby Read, local community agencies, volunteers.

Objective Two: Oconee County's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities.

STRATEGY 1

Early screening, assessment and referral to services.

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY26, we will leverage our current Role as experts in Early Interventions to leading needed conversations for community priorities and increase referrals and connections to services by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- The School District of Oconee County, United Way, City and County Government, current partnering agencies and businesses.

STRATEGY 2

Community Education

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Each year we will hold at least two fairs/events that will include screenings, rotating locations through out Oconee County.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SDOC, The Library System of OC, United Way, City Governments, Head Start, NFP (Prisma Health-Upstate)

Objective Three: Close Equity Gaps: A Fair Chance for Every Child.

STRATEGY 1.1

Proactively work to narrow the gaps between White and Black/Hispanic students demonstrating readiness.

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By, FY26 we will narrow the gap from 20.5 % to 14.5%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- School District of Oconee County, Head Start, Baby Read NFP, United Way, local city and county leaders

STRATEGY 1.2

Utilize web-based data tools that incorporate and tract level data To determine gaps in key services.

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Gather and share data with community, OCFS Board, School district leaders, families and supporting agencies to follow progress monthly.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- OCFS board, SDOC, Community partners, parents, Carolina Engagement Center, Head Start, Day Care Providers

Objective Three: Close Equity Gaps: A Fair Chance for Every Child

STRATEGY 2

Nurse Family Partnership - Focus

SMART GOAL(S)

- Increase the number of Black/Hispanic families connected through Oconee NFP by 25% by FY25.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Community Partners, SDOC, Carolina Engagement Center, NFP, DHEC, DSS, Prisma Health-Upstate Pediatricians/Obstetricians.

STRATEGY 2.1

Engage in Public information campaigns to reach targeted Populations and educate parents/caregivers.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY25 enhance our Social Media presence through our website and Facebook accounts including original posts and surveys.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Kindel Thomas – OCFS social media consultant, WGOG radio, The Seneca Journal, Lamar Ads. The Library System of Oconee County, Local agencies

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

1. More children arrive at Kindergarten ready for success.

By FY26, the percentage of Oconee County children who score at the highest level of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase from 29% to 35%.

2. More children will be screened, assessed and referred to Early Intervention services.

By FY26, the percentage of children participating in screening, will increase from 2% each year, going from 10% to 16%.

3. The gap will narrow for White and Black/Hispanic Kindergarteners.

By FY26 this race/ethnicity gap will decrease from 20.5% to 14.5%.

Acknowledgments

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