



Aligning for Success

Worcester's Birth to 3rd Grade Initiative

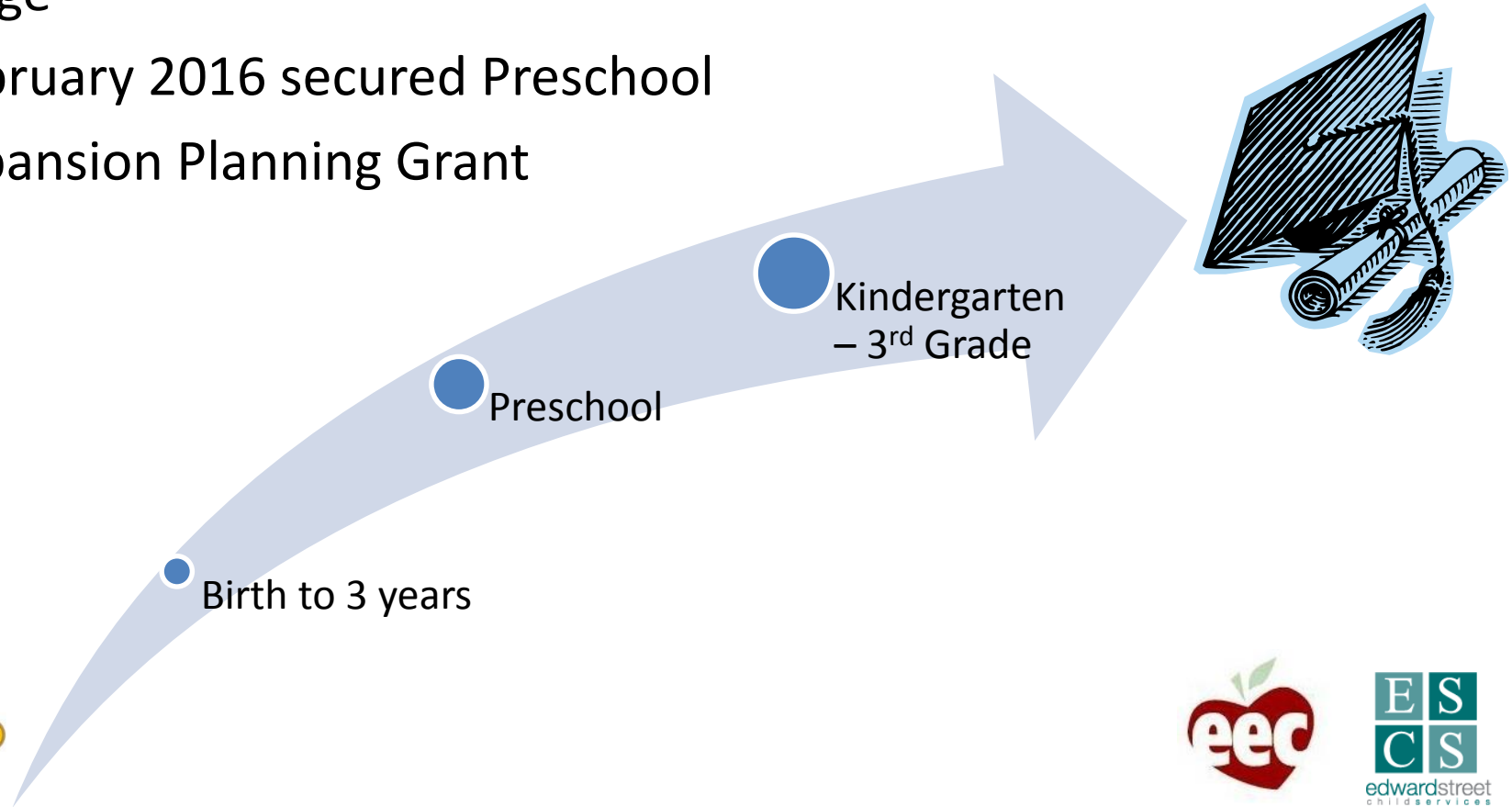
WPS School Committee Meeting

February 25, 2016



Birth to 3rd Grade Alignment

- April 2013 held first citywide convening
- May 2014 secured 18 month Alignment Grant “Collaboration Stage”
- February 2016 secured Preschool Expansion Planning Grant



Worcester's Alignment Grant At-A-Glance

Community's initial Goals through the grant:

1. Strengthen PreK-K Transitions for children & families
2. Develop strong, effective framework for engaging families in children's learning
3. Build/grow a community focus on literacy and importance of the early years
4. Set the stage for growth of collaboration



Alignment Partnership Council

Edward Street Child Services

Worcester Public Schools

Worcester Child Development Head Start

Quinsigamond Community College

Family Services of Central MA

Worcester Family Partnership

YWCA of Central MA

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care

Guild of St. Agnes

Rainbow Child Development Center

Webster Square Day Care Center

Worcester Public Library

Worcester Education Collaborative

Latino Education Institute

Pernet Family Health Services



Strengthened PreK-K Transitions

1. Developed ***Worcester's Characteristics of Kindergarten Readiness: Transitioning from Preschool to Kindergarten*** - shared at state level as a model
2. Established "Meet & Greet with Principals" & common read for elementary principals
3. Joint PD – Family Engagement, Social-Emotional and Approaches to Plan & Learning, Early Learning WIDA, principal's high-quality Kindergarten, and ECE Leadership
4. Established community-school data working group



Created Characteristics of Kindergarten Readiness

Community definition to anchor educators' work – common language, shared expectations



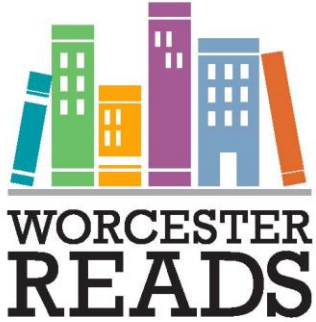
Established Community-School Data Working Group

Working Group's Purpose

- To explore how Early Childhood Centers (ECCs) and the Worcester Public Schools (WPS) might collaborate so it is possible to:
 - Know which students in the WPS went to an ECC
 - Better understand the relationship between ECC participation and student outcomes
 - Share data with ECCs to inform programming and assess the effectiveness of services
 - Develop a system by which indicators of student readiness for school can be seamlessly shared with WPS school-based staff to maximize learning opportunities
- To better understand existing efforts at the state and national level
- To develop a strategic approach for proceeding in Worcester that is responsive to the needs of ECCs, the WPS and students.



Deepened Community Focus on Early Literacy



*20 Minutes. Every Child. Every Day.
20 Minutos. Cada Niño. Cada Día.*



Next Up....



**The Most Important 20 Minutes of Your Day.
Read with Your Child.**

www.worcesterreads.org

Creating Strategic Planning Framework

Worcester's Early Learning System



Discussion

Questions

