

ONE Somerville EVERY child

Department of Early Education
and Care Overview, School
Committee Presentation
12/5/22

Presented by: Kathleen Bailer, Director of Early
Education, Somerville Public Schools



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Who is on the team?

Department of Early Education and Care



Kathleen Bailer, Director of Early Education and Care

Valerie Giltinan, Early Childhood Instructional Coach

Jessica Ferris, Early Childhood Instructional Coach

Gina DiNunzio, Early Childhood Grant Administrative Project Coordinator

Who is on the Team? Cross Sector Collaboration

ONE Somerville EVERY child



Somerville Promise



Somerville Early Education (SEE) & Care

Mission

The Somerville Early Education department ensures that young children in Somerville have equitable access to a curriculum approach where they are engaged in joyful, robust, challenging, child-centered experiences grounded in play, discovery, and their own interests, and guided by state and national learning standards.

Vision

Children are born ready to learn and have the right to equitable access to a curricular approach that reflects who they are and what they are interested in. It is the job of the adults in a child's life to prepare an environment and experiences that support a child's ability to grow to their full potential. In order for children to be confident and happy learners in school and life, the adult, environment, and child work together to develop their own dispositions and practices **alongside** which children can grow and thrive.

Goal

To ensure all students receive a high quality equitable education across the city and meet and exceed kindergarten readiness benchmarks.

Overview

Building the System Over the Years

Public Preschool - “The Partnership” - Mixed-Delivery Support

1996-2009 Community Partnerships for Children
2010 8 CAP, 1 WSNS

Early Learning Challenge Grant/Race to the Top– SPS Dept. Early Ed

2011 SFLC

2011-14 ELCG

2013 1 AFA, 1 WH

2014 1 HEA HS

2014 Dir. Early Ed. & 1 PT Coach

Single Point Entry

2015 Coach - Level Service

Ready to Learn, Ready for K
By All Means

2016

1st CAP HS

Lesley Residency Program

2017

2nd CAP HS

2nd Coach

Curriculum Development

Screening Incoming PreK

Children’s Cabinet Established

Commonwealth
Preschool Partnership
Initiative Grant

2018-2021

Grant Project Administrator

Preschool Expansion 8 Centers

Increased Access and Affordability

Curriculum Implementation

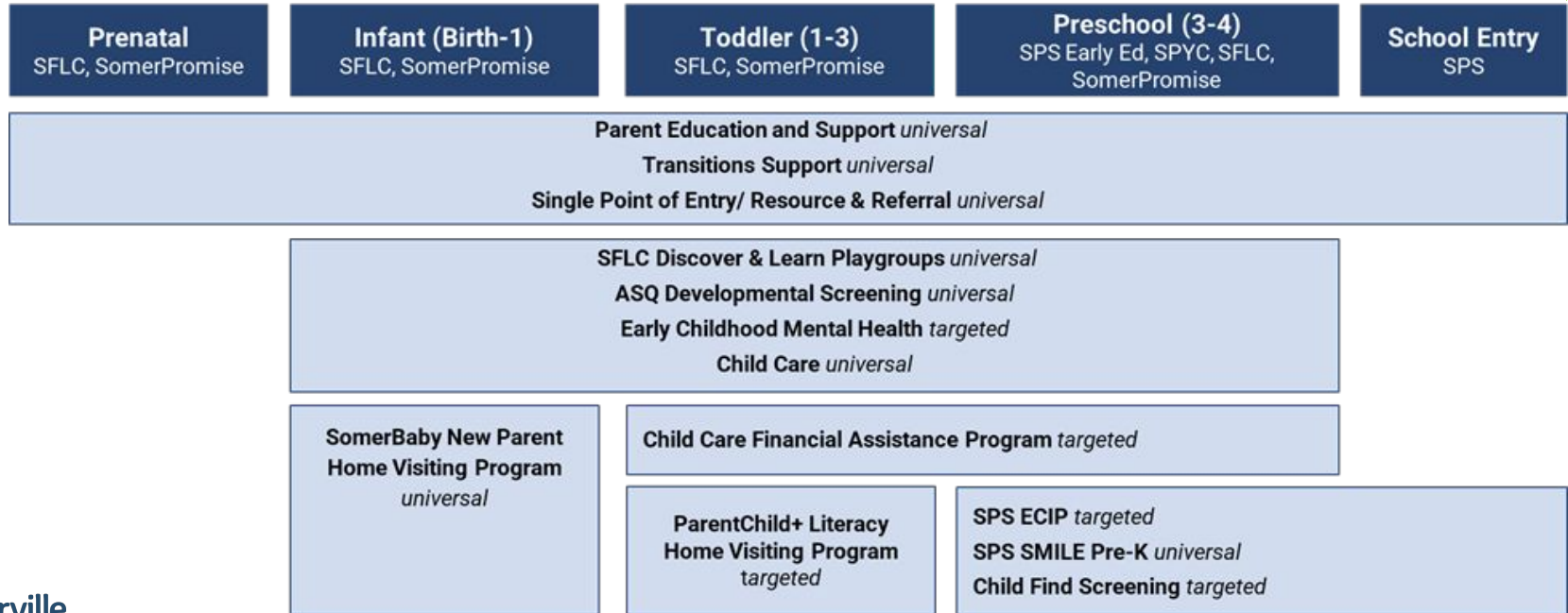
Itinerant Service Delivery Begins

Mental & Behavioral Health Supports

2021 1 HEA Sonrisa

Building the system: Extended programming and support for families

Mixed-Delivery Model - Prenatal to School Entry Programming and Support



Building the system: Early Education in Somerville

Mixed-Delivery Model- Utilizing Braided and Blended Funding
SPS Budget, Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative, Gleam Grant, SomerPromise, ARPA,

2022- 2023 Plans and Goals

Child Care Access and Affordability Fund

1 PK @ ESCS (Bilingual)

Coordinator of Prenatal to School Entry Partnership
Alignment & Grant Development

ESI and CLASS PD

3rd Coach

Literacy Practices Fidelity

Curriculum Accessibility

Tiered PD and supports

Increased wraparound

Increased PD collaboration

MTSS development

Workforce Partnerships

Mixed Delivery Research



36 classrooms across 17 buildings

+/- 500 children

SPS Preschool Programs: Pre-K (SMILE), Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP) , AIM (Adapt, Include, Motivate)

SPYC Community Partners: Bigelow Cooperative Daycare Center, Dandelion Montessori, Elizabeth Peabody House, Head Start, Kingdom Rock Children's Center, Open Center for Children, Pooh & Friends Learning Center, Somerville Child Care Center, Tree House Academy, YMCA

Quick Facts: Kindergarten



Kindergarten Numbers

- 372 active Kindergarten Students
- 52% of kindergarten students come from SPS preschool classrooms
- 22% of kindergarten students come from Somerville child care centers.
- 9% of kindergarten children entered with no prior preschool experience.
- Prior to kindergarten, our students came from 78 (excluding SPS) child care providers ranging from Lincoln to Boston, around the country and worldwide!

Our mixed delivery work directly impacts more than half the entering kindergarten students.

Quick Facts: Preschool

- 282 current enrollment
- 360 total preschool capacity
 - (246 PK & 114 specialized programming that requires placement from special education department.)
- 78% capacity (as of 11/30/22)

Pre-K Classrooms Throughout Somerville



School	Enrollment (current/capacity)
Capuano (PK)	87/120
Capuano (ECIP)	84/114
Healey (PK)	16/18
Healey Sonrisa (PK)	7/18
AFAS (PK)	18/18
Winter Hill (PK)	17/18
WSNS (PK)	18/18
East Somerville (PK)	17/18

Highlights

Highlights: Somerville Partnership for Young Children



Built an infrastructure for community based child care providers.

- Director Mentoring and Teacher Coaching
- Professional Development
- Curriculum Alignment
- Access and Affordability
- Wrap Around Supports
- Partnerships/Collaborations
- Data Alignment

Highlights: Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts (GLEAM)



The Somerville Early Education & Care Department has been awarded a three year GLEAM grant to strengthen early literacy in our classrooms across our mixed-delivery system.

Science Based Practices:

- Oral language and literacy enrichment is embedded into daily instruction.
- On-going assessment data is used to inform understanding of children's oral language literacy development.
- Resources are prioritized to support prevention programs from the earliest ages.
- Partnerships/collaborations across the community.

“Given that early literacy difficulties fuel future literacy problems, we need to do our best to prevent difficulties from the start. Fortunately, prevention has been estimated at a mere fraction of the costs of remediation, for budgets and children.”

Lead For Literacy, Language Diversity & Literacy Development Research Group, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Highlights: Teacher Coaching



Coaching supports for teachers. A key factor in student achievement:

- Two coaches (Valerie Giltinan & Jessica Ferris), 1 open coaching position
- Three, 8-10 week cycles & on-going teacher support
- 29+ teachers
- Professional Development
- Director support
- Curriculum support
- Student centered coaching
- Impacting approximately 500 children

Highlights: CTE Partnership Supporting Educator Pipeline



- Collaboration with Somerville High School CTE Early Education program to support an internship program for high school juniors and seniors.
 - 10 Juniors and Seniors are interning in SPS and community based centers.
- CPPI funded positions are available for high school seniors to work after school hours in community centers.
- Early Ed students are working towards EEC Professional Qualification Certification for the positions as Teachers in a preschool or infant/toddler classroom in a private setting.
- Strong collaboration with the Somerville Child Care Program.

Highlights: Community Partnerships - Let's Get Trucking



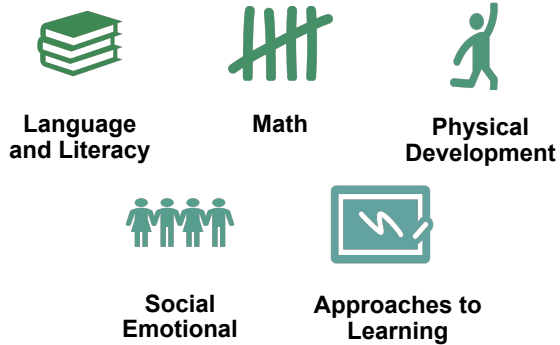
- Snow Plow Naming Contest
 - 2022 Winner - OVERDRIVE from Ms. Scrima's Kindergarten Class @ Kennedy
- Let's Get Truckin'
 - An initiative with Somerville Department of Public Works and Somerville Public Schools.



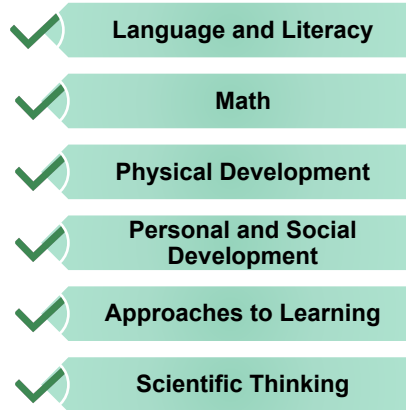
Data

CPPI Data

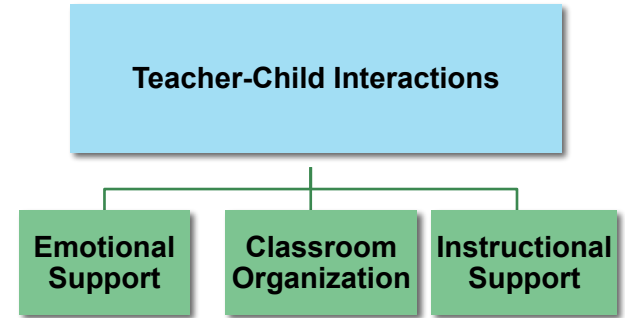
KINDERGARTEN ENTRY SKILLS INVENTORY (KESI)



PRESCHOOL (PK) REPORT CARD



CLASS



Highlights: Student Achievement



- Children have been consistently meeting kindergarten entry standards in each domain since Fall 2017
- Preschool children made significant gains in each Preschool report card domain during the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Adult-student interactions in all CLASS domains (Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support) have improved since 2019.
- Targeted professional development, coaching and mentoring in Concept Development resulted in markedly increased achievement in CLASS in 2022.

Areas of Growth



- Analysis of KESI scores revealed persisting disparities in scores across ethnicity, language proficiency, household income, developmental disability status, and gender, particularly within Language and Literacy and Math domains.
- PK Report Card gains between October 2021 and March 2022 are disproportionate by gender, ethnicity, developmental disability status, household income, particularly in Language and Literacy, Scientific Thinking and Mathematical Thinking.

Next Steps



EQUITY, ACCESS & SUSTAINABILITY

Child Care Access & Affordability
Financial Assistance for Families

Universal Application

Outreach and Awareness
Marketing Campaign

Single Point of Entry
Development -- [SomervilleHub
Connect](#)



QUALITY

Coaching Support for Directors and Teachers

Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) Support

Professional Development and Degree Attainment

Curriculum Alignment (Approach, Materials, Furnishings)

Assessment: CLASS

Workforce Development

Data Analysis - DILT & GLEAM



COMPREHENSIVE WRAP-AROUND

Mental Health and Behavioral
Consultation

Universal Screening: Early Screening
Inventory (ESI), Ages & Stages (ASQ)

Itinerant Special Education Service
Providers

Family Education & Support; Resources &
Workshops

Nutrition Education and Support

Translation and Interpretation Services

SFLC School-Based Liaisons



Questions?

For further information on Somerville's Early Childhood Programs,

please contact:

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