



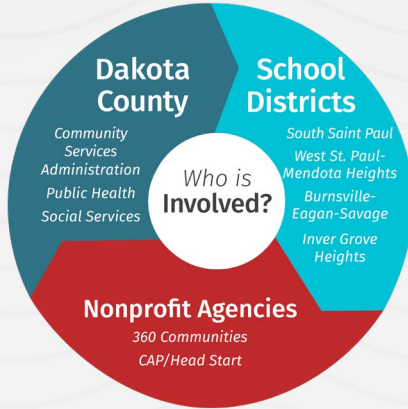
Birth to Age 8

Dakota County

Establishing a Strong Foundation for Lifetime Success

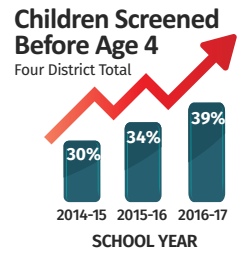


The Birth to Age 8 Collaborative initiative brings essential Dakota County partners and services together to assure children reach key developmental milestones from birth to age eight.



OUR SUCCESSES

- ★ Developed communication methods to promote rates of early childhood screening before age four.
- ★ Partnered with school districts on a data sharing portal to track developmental milestones to ensure school readiness and reading at grade level by third grade.

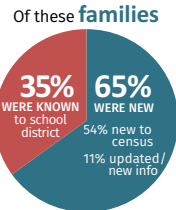


- ★ Implemented an innovative and intentional referral process between the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and school districts.

Through the WIC project, families are being connected to important early childhood resources and supports.

In the first quarter of 2019, 15 percent of referrals resulted in early childhood screening, and 32 percent resulted in enrollment in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE).

Oct 2016 - March 2019
1,014 Referrals made
to the four school districts by Dakota County WIC staff



OUR VISION

100% of identified children meet the state proficiency reading target by the spring of the third grade and have their families receive the necessary supports to succeed.

HOW WILL WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- ★ IDENTIFY early those children who face challenges to healthy development and school success.
- ★ TRACK developmental milestones during critical early years to ensure school readiness and reading at grade level by age 8.
- ★ CONNECT and surround children and families to the necessary supports to succeed.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Research tells us that if children are reading proficiently by third grade, they are more likely to graduate high school and achieve greater economic success.



Recipient of:

- 2018 MODEL PRACTICES National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- 2017 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD National Association of Counties (NACo)
- 2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION Humphrey School of Public Affairs