

Early Childhood Education

2016



First Things First and Tucson Unified School District: Strengthening Partnerships

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READY FOR SCHOOL. SET FOR LIFE.

Overview of First Things First

**Development and Health Board
Established in 2006 by the
Voters of Arizona and
Reaffirmed in 2010**

- **Community-focused, Shared Governance Structure**
 - **Statewide Board**
 - **28 Regional Partnership Councils**
 - **Regional Partnership Councils in Pima County: Pima North, Pima South, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation**



First Things First Impacts

Three Main Goal Areas

- **Quality Preschool and Child Care**
- **Strengthening Families and Literacy**
- **Preventative Health**



First Things First Impacts



IF CHILDREN START SCHOOL
READY TO SUCCEED,
THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO
READ AT GRADE LEVEL BY
3RD GRADE.

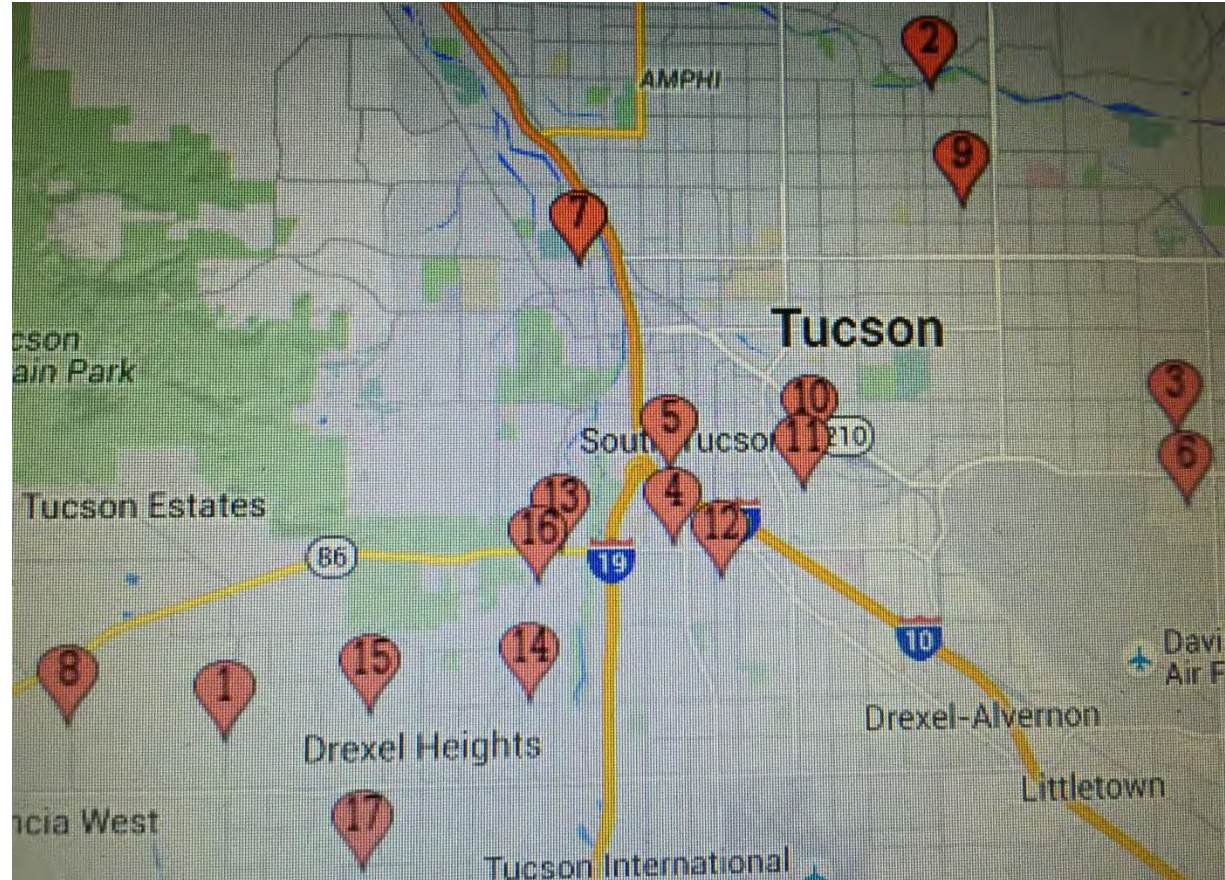
First Things First Impacts

Snapshot of Three Strategies Impacting Families

First Things First Region	Quality First Enrolled Programs	Young Children Accessing Quality Care with through Quality First Scholarships	Family Access to Family Support and Early Literacy Programming
Pima North	119	315	1050
Pima South	80	90	1147
Pascua Yaqui Tribe	1	16	20
Tohono O'odham Nation	6	40	90
Pima County Wide	206	461	2307

Snap Shot of TUSD Quality First

- *Johnson (P.A.C.E. Program)
- *Davidson (Partners Preschool Program)
- *Wheeler (Partners Preschool Program)
- Hollinger (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Mission View (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Erickson (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Manzo (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Borman (Partners Preschool Program)
- Wright (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Pueblo Gardens (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Cavett (P.A.C.E. and Explorer Programs)
- Van Buskirk (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Lynn Urquides (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Grijalva (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Warren (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Mary Belle McCorkle (P.A.C.E. Program)
- Maldonado (P.A.C.E. Program)
- *Programs Currently Receiving Quality First Scholarships



Snap Shot of TUSD Family Support

Working with children, families,
and educators at

Preschools
Childcare centers
Home-based providers



Meeting children and families
in community locations

Swap Meet
Community Food Bank
WIC Offices



Raising A Reader at
Neighborhood School

Build community &
familiarity at future
elementary school



Meeting children and
families at home

Apartment communities
Mobile home communities

Funding provided by:
 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Helios
Education Foundation

Children at all project sites receive support to transition to kindergarten ready to read & succeed



Nicol Russell, Deputy Associate Superintendent

Arizona Department of Education

Early Childhood

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early Childhood Education in Arizona

- Role and Support from ADE
- EQUIP and Kindergarten Readiness
- Importance of Early Childhood Education



History

- 40+ years of commitment to provide preschool programs to children.
- Preschool programs in more than half of all elementary schools
- IEP, Kindergarten readiness and tuition options
- Separate programmatic system

Recent Growth

- 2014-2015
 - Audit reported need for more inclusive programs with a greater consistency across district
- Summer 2015
 - Board approved pilot programs in 9 elementary schools.
- 2015-2016
 - Ongoing implementation, evaluation and monitoring of piloting programs

Pilot Program Review

- Teacher and Administration Feedback
- Student impact
- District impact
- Partnerships
- Moving forward



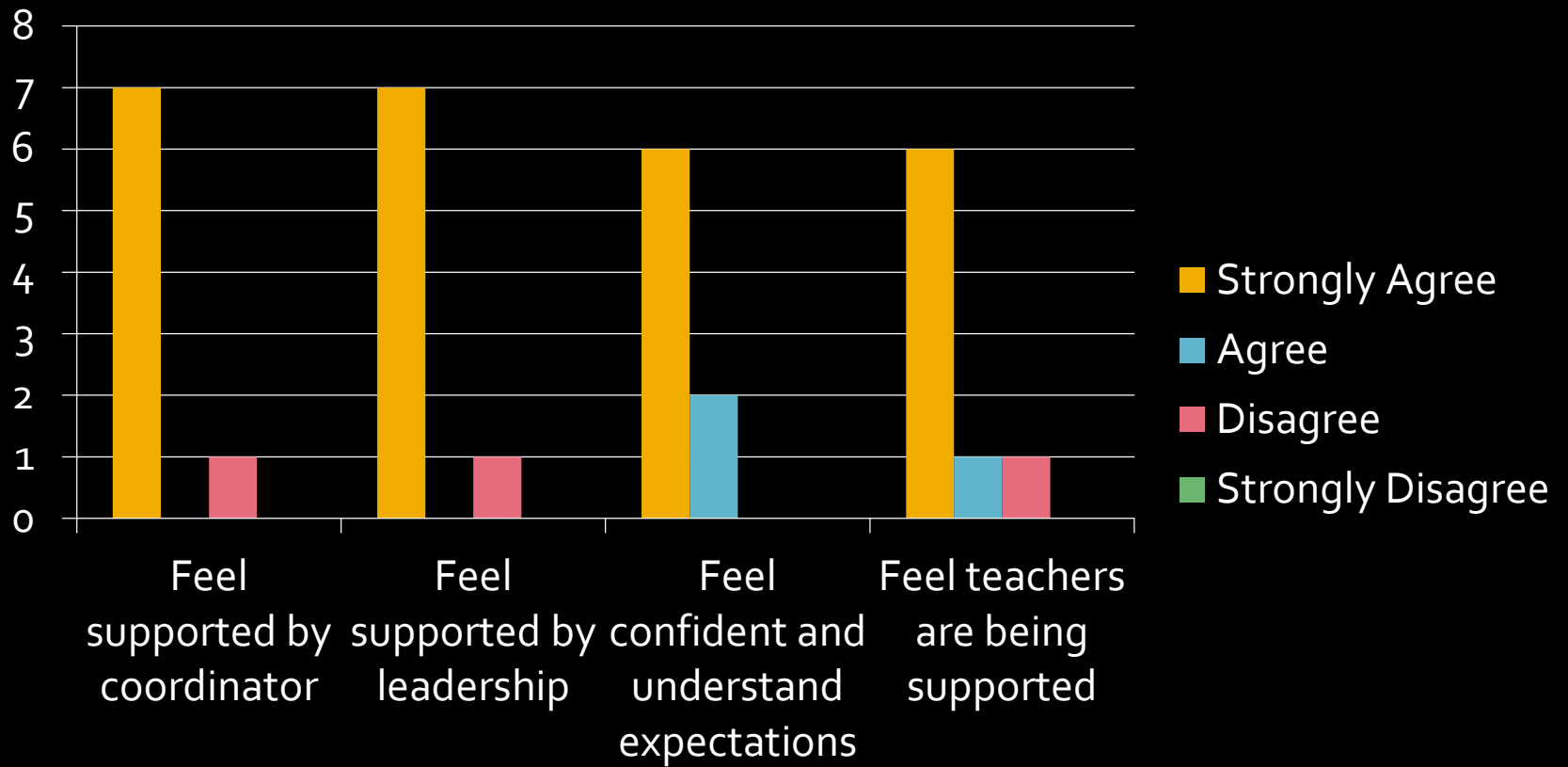
Teacher and Administration Feedback

- Surveys
- Biweekly Check in
- Community of Practice (United Way)
 - Coaching
 - Classroom Visits



Survey

- Large majority of teachers , support staff and principals feel supported by central leadership
- Principals are enthusiastic about the model
- Teachers and Principals are seeing a greater partnership between pre-school and K-5 community



Teacher and Principal Survey

Community of Practice

Bi-Weekly Check-in



- Love working with 3 year olds
- Excited to share this with the dept as a whole
- Favor new schedule
- Happy about streamlined registration process
- Inclusion professional development highly valued
- Teachers see a need for EXED knowledge and skills
- Supported by district, partnership and school administrators

Student Impact

- 2 years of early education
- Integrated classrooms educating all students
- Standard based instruction
- Gold Assessment
- Focus on Kindergarten Readiness
- Children and Parents are part of School Community



Data

■ GOLD Assessment (Literacy)

2014-2015	2015-2016
<p>Beginning-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•8.3 % meeting standards•0% exceed standards <p>End-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•64.9% meeting standards•34.2% meeting standards	<p>Beginning-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•19.8% meeting standards•0% exceed stands <p>End- TBD</p>



District Impact

- Expanding Options (Double Sessions)
- District recruitment
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Lowering the amount of children entering K-12 system needing tier 2 and tier 3 interventions
- Early identification
- Preschool beginning to align with K-5 per site

Data

- Number of students enrolled in PACE

2014-2015	2015-2016	Total Spaces	Vacancy	Difference
396	477 (90%)	528	51	132

- Number of students with IEP enrolled in PACE

122
more
student

2014-2015	2015-2016	Total Spaces	Vacancy	Difference
26	67 (76%- 70/30)	88(70/30)	21 (70/30)	41

Exceptional Education Preschool Data

Current Enrollment	Pending	Itinerant caseload
654	18	115

Total EXED preschool enrollment	Total IEP enrolled in PACE
654	67 (10%)

Next Steps

- Registration
- Recruitment
- School/Site Location
- Placement of Students
- ADE recommendation
- Transition Plan
- Parent Education