

Liberty County School System
Comprehensive School Improvement Plan

LIBERTY COUNTY PRE-K
FY 10



Liberty County School System

Liberty County Pre-K School Improvement Plan

School: Liberty County Pre-K

Principal's Signature: _____

School Improvement Committee/Professional Development Committee

Co-Chairmen: Shelby Bush, Principal
Delores Crawford, Assistant Principal

Committee: Amy Bloom, Teacher
Janice Ellis, Teacher
Jennifer Gilstrap, Teacher
Fascenda Marengo, Paraprofessional

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Liberty County Pre-K Mission Statement

As a child's first experience with the public school system, the mission of Liberty County Pre-K is to provide all children with a positive, firm foundation for future learning. We have a highly qualified staff of certified teachers and support personnel dedicated to all children.

Beliefs

- We believe that all children are capable of learning.
- We believe the school environment should be safe, challenging, and promote learning.
- We believe teachers and parents should be partners that are unified in the education of their child.
- We believe that all individuals should respect the learning environment and understand the process of learning.
- We believe that all individuals must work together to find students' strengths and weaknesses to maximize students' learning potential.
- We believe that in order for teachers to become effective educators and empower their students to strive to their fullest potential, they must collaborate with peers and must themselves be life long learners.

Narrative

During the 2009-2010 school year, Liberty County Pre-K equipped 450 students for success in kindergarten. Students were educated in 20 regular education classrooms, 1 inclusion room, and 3 self-contained special education classrooms. In addition, 23 speech only students, and 21 three year old students were served at the Pre-K Center.

All teachers at Liberty County Pre-K are certified by the state of Georgia and hold a bachelor's degree or higher in the area of their specific field. Ongoing professional development set forth by Georgia Pre-K is provided to all staff members and parents. Staff members are offered numerous opportunities to attend state, county, and school staff development throughout the year.

Pre-K students excel because of the high standards set by the staff and teachers at the center. Teachers use best practices and High Scope Curriculum to develop independent thinkers through developmentally appropriate techniques for four year old children. As mandated by Georgia Pre-K our *High Scope Curriculum* and the *Content Standards* are now aligned with the Kindergarten Georgia Performance Standards. This sets up a smooth transition into the kindergarten curriculum.

The Pre-K center provides a safe and inviting learning environment to help establish kindergarten readiness skills that create a firm foundation for future learning. Through nurturing and guidance students develop self-esteem and a positive attitude towards learning. Student learning potential is maximized by providing an experiential, interactive, and hands-on learning environment. Each classroom is designed and set up to reflect diversity, cultural differences, and students' interests in learning.

Teachers create learning experiences with specific goals and high expectations for each child, including those with special needs. Teachers work in partnership with parents communicating regularly to build mutual understanding of the child's educational strengths and weaknesses. A balance of teacher-directed and child-initiated activities are planned and implemented to promote learning in each of the seven domains which include: Personal and Social, Language and Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Creative Development, and Health and Physical Development.

Technology continues to be an important part of the Pre-K Program. Technology and literacy are enhanced through the use of the school computer lab, media center, and by resource coordinators and a literacy coach. Students are introduced to technology by utilizing classroom computers, interactive smartboard, radios (books on tape), e-books, and weekly visits to the computer lab. We have a state of the art computer lab which students attend once a week. Every activity that is conducted in the computer lab is reinforced in the classroom.

Literacy is promoted by a weekly visit to the media center, which allows the students to listen to stories and check out books of their choice. Each year the Governor selects a book to be sent home with each student in Georgia's Pre-K program. Bright from the Start compiles lesson plans and ideas which correlate with the book.

Our Resource Coordinators have established a valuable parent volunteer program. Parents are given many opportunities to be an active participant in their child's education. Training is offered to parents and they are highly encouraged to volunteer a few hours each week. Parents are provided with monthly workshops, which begin in August. The workshops are designed and scheduled through surveys, which parents complete indicating their needs and concerns.

Pre-K stays actively engaged with the military community. We are fully aware of the impact that deployments have on the military child. We make every effort to keep deployed parents involved in their child's education. This is accomplished through a variety of mediums including: e-mails, blogs, telephone conferences, and Skype throughout the school year.

Liberty County Pre-K is successful because of the strong partnership among students, families, schools, and the military and local community.

Pre-K Assessment

All Pre-K assessments correlate with the pre-k standards. Previously there was no transition or correlation between Pre-K Content Standards and Kindergarten Standards. The core component of Georgia's Pre-K child assessment is the Work Sampling System. The WSS measures all seven domains within the Georgia Pre-K content standards. Within the seven domains (Personal and Social, Language and Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Creative Development, and Physical Health and Development) the students are assessed through the use of observational notes, photos, and matrices. Each Pre-K teacher is responsible for maintaining a progressive portfolio for each child.

Throughout each semester a developmental checklist (Attachment) is maintained for each student. The checklist is updated every six weeks using documentation collected through assessment methods aforementioned. The checklist entails standards in all seven domains set forth by Bright from the Start. The developmental checklist has a scale that displays a child's progression ranging from Not Met to Proficient.

Pre-K also utilizes Response to Intervention to address students' weaknesses in all seven domains as well as behavior. Each educator is trained to assess students' needs and develop early intervention strategies using the RTI process to promote success. Response to Intervention strategies are followed according to Liberty County Pre-K guidelines. The developmental and/or behavior progress is monitored throughout the school year.

Progress reports are generated in the fall and spring of each year. The progress report is developed based on a variety of documentation collected during each semester. A brief narrative is constructed in each domain summarizing the students' strengths and weaknesses. Conferences are scheduled with parents to review and discuss the child's progress report.

Parent Involvement Plan

Collaboration between parents and school faculty is crucial to the initial beginning of a student's educational success. We believe that education is a joint effort between home and school and the role of the parent is significant. Parents and teachers jointly build a foundation to develop skills, habits, and attitudes to becoming life long learners. A school contract between parents and teachers is signed at the beginning of the school year to set a standard for learning and classroom expectations. Teachers and parents discuss the school contract and parents sign it with an understanding of the school's expectations. Parent involvement programs and activities are implemented throughout the year to maximize student success.

- **Back to School Open House:** Parents, students, and teachers will be introduced for the first time. They will be able to tour the school, their classrooms, and address any questions or concerns they have for the upcoming school year.
- **Parent Involvement Workshops:** Workshops will be provided throughout the course of the school year in areas such as but not limited to: Technology, Literacy, Math, Make and take it, Game night, Kindergarten Readiness, and in areas of interest to the parents.
- **Parent Volunteer Training:** A training that is offered to recruit parents to serve as volunteers throughout the school.
- **Parent/Teacher Conference Afternoons:** Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled during the early dismissal days set forth by the Liberty County Board of Education. Bright from the Start also requires two mandatory parent/teacher conferences.
- **Picture Days:** Fall and spring individual pictures will be taken as well as one class photo in the spring.
- **Children's Book Week:** A fun filled week of daily activities focusing on promoting the joy of reading.
- **Book Fairs:** Numerous times throughout the year the media center sponsors Scholastic Book Fairs. Parents are encouraged to visit and explore the book fair with their child.
- **Winter Festival and Spring Fling:** A fun filled day of activities for all ages.
- **Field Day:** Students participate in competitions between the classes. Students develop good sportsmanship skills through the course of competition.
- **Water Day:** A fun filled day of water activities.
- **Parent Volunteer Training:** A training that is offered twice to recruit parents to serve as volunteers throughout the school.

Liberty County Pre-K uses the following communication to provide parents with timely information about the school, progress of students, and academic advice.

- **Newsletters:** Newsletters provide parents with important classroom information, topics of study, and upcoming events. In addition to, a monthly school newsletter.
- **Bright from the Start Pre-K Parent Post:** A monthly pamphlet containing activities for Georgia's Pre-K children and families.
- **School Website:** (www.liberty.k12.ga.us/prek) Provides information about the school and staff, lists the school's missions statement, and school calendar of events.
- **Bright from the Start Website:** (decal.ga.gov) For families, teachers, and providers.
- **Parent Portal on Power School:** View attendance and demographic information