

Meeting the 40210 Challenge

Building Momentum for Economic Prosperity through Early Childhood Education

About us

The 2014 Bingham Fellows are tasked with “Investing in West Louisville’s Path to Prosperity.” In order to build on the strengths and assist with transforming neighborhoods in West Louisville, we found that education is the key to future prosperity. In fact, Mayor Fischer’s economic development plan identifies early childhood education as integral to our community’s long-term economic success.

Results from fall 2013 screening demonstrate that only 52% of children entering kindergarten in the Jefferson County Public School system were “kindergarten ready.” There is a marked decrease in kindergarten readiness in the area west of 9th Street. Specifically, in zip code 40210, encompassing portions of the California, Park Hill, and Algonquin neighborhoods, only 35% of the children were “kindergarten ready.”

Our goal is to increase early childhood education, specifically in the 40210 zip code area. This place-based effort will serve as a model for progress toward our community-wide kindergarten readiness goal of 77% by 2020.

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The Bingham Fellows will implement a program that increases kindergarten readiness of children residing in the 40210 zip code with improved kindergarten readiness (Brigance Kindergarten Screen) scores by 5% by 2016.

2014 Bingham Fellows have partnered with Metro United Way, Jefferson County Public Schools and the Louisville Free Public Library.

Our vision is to replicate the success in 40210 to other areas. We will integrate focused programming into the organizational mission and day-to-day operations of our key stakeholders.

Key Outcomes of the Project

Research has found that interventions aimed at engaging parents in school readiness activities lead to positive academic outcomes. Below are focus areas by the Bingham Fellows:

- Expand Metro United Way Parent Cafés with the ongoing use of the child development tool Ages and Stages
- Collaborate with the Louisville Free Public Library’s “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program
- Provide front yard libraries within 40210 to create easy access for family reading
- Expand the dissemination of kindergarten readiness kits that prepare children for kindergarten in 40210
- Support expansion of kindergarten readiness best practices to child care providers in 40210

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