

Brandywine ECAP

Public Information Report

Brandywine Early Childhood Assistance Program provides free preschool education for four year old children who are living below the poverty level. There are three admission requirements: the child must be four years of age by August 31, the family must reside in the Brandywine School District (or the child must attend a daycare for 20 hours or more in the District), and the families must meet the Federal Income Requirements. The program is state funded with a grant of \$336,600. In addition, the Department of Education awarded the program a technology mini grant of \$787.92. Please see the budget as listed below. In May 2011, the Delaware Department of Education conducted an on-site, five day monitoring review of Brandywine ECAP. Education of the children and staff commitment were identified as the program's largest strengths. The only area of non-compliance found was that an Annual Program report to the public had not been published. This document serves that purpose

The program serves a total of fifty-one low income, high risk preschool children. There is generally a waiting list for the program, but very few students withdraw during the school year. The program provides an inclusive setting for both special education and regular education students. Students with disabilities receive their services within the school setting. Ninety percent of the families are living at or below the poverty level.

The overall goal of the program is to prepare children, educationally, emotionally and socially for kindergarten. This is considered a growing year for the preschoolers. The Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers, the Breakthrough to Literacy Program and Handwriting without Tears are the three major curricula. The program is aligned to Delaware's Early Learning Foundations which was created to strengthen the system of early care and education throughout the state. These learning opportunities are developmentally appropriate and individualized for each child. These domains are directly linked to the kindergarten curriculum. Brandywine ECAP longitudinally tracks the students through high school to measure the success of the early intervention they receive. Seventy-five percent of the students who were tracked using the DSTPs scores from the class of 2005-2006 and were currently in third grade, scored a placement level of 3, 4 or 5. This is significant data considering that these students came into the district as the highest risk children. One hundred percent of the students served have received medical screenings and are up to date on their immunizations. Eighty eight percent of the students have had dental screenings.

Parent involvement is a key component of the program. There are many opportunities for parents; parent workshops, assisting in the classroom, chaperoning field trips, providing support in the cafeteria and on the playground and being involved in the Policy Council. The Policy Council are parent elected officers who function as the programs governing board. They work directly with the program coordinator, a School Board Representative and Community partners to strengthen and support the program. Parents are also provided with skills to support their child's learning at home. The program also has a strong collaborative partnership with the Brandywine Parent Center which offers a wide variety of resources for parents on topics from parenting skills to transitioning to kindergarten.

Brandywine School District is committed to the success of its youngest learners. Please refer to the Brandywine School District's Plan for Success 2010-2014 report for additional information. Brandywine School District is a leader in the education of students from preschool through twelfth grade. Brandywine ECAP fulfills this need for their high risk preschool population.

For further information about the program or enrollment materials, please contact PJ Facciolo by email at pamela.facciolo@bsd.k12.de.us or by telephone 761-7420.

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