

ECE Call – 4/11/16

Highlights:

- **At the Partners meeting, subcommittee members discussed having face-to-face meetings every month. The call will continue to be held so out-of-town partners and anyone else who wants to join can get on the call.**
- **The home visiting project was completed with a spaghetti dinner with parents and teachers. 207 visits were completed and 25 new teachers will be trained and added to the program for next year.**
- **Professional development for pre-k teachers will be held on two days in May and two days in the summer.**
- **Student achievement and on-level scores have met or exceeded their progress from last year.**

Participants:

- Anna Hardaway – Save the Children
- Amanda Fragile – McDowell County Schools
- Jamie Richards – AFT
- Debbie Elmore – Reconnecting McDowell
- Natalie Dean – Share my lesson
- Julie Rubin – AFT

Amanda:

- Reflections about partners meeting:
 - Because the members of the subcommittee already meet in person through meetings of other organizations, they want to incorporate the monthly ECE meetings and coordinate all the meetings to be at more convenient times and to capitalize on the productivity they find in face-to-face meetings.
 - The call will still be held monthly to incorporate out-of-town partners and to share updates
 - An update email could be sent out with the minutes from each of these meetings.

Updates:

- The Touch-a-truck fair will be held on Friday, April 15. They have community resource providers, pre-k teachers and assistants, and 11 learning stations located inside the Welch Armory. Outside there will be a lot of vehicles such as an ambulance, construction vehicles, and firetrucks for children to interact with. The fair will begin at 10am on Friday.
- The Literacy Grant is due on April 15th. There is a meeting with stakeholders today to make sure that everyone is organized and on the same page.
 - Ready Freddy is included in the grant. It is a program that teaches children about the transition to kindergarten and the importance of attendance at kindergarten and all activities leading up to it in order to prevent chronic attendance issues. The school district already has one mascot costume, a very large frog, that will be attending events, and they're working on obtaining another.
- The Home visiting project concluded on Saturday, April 9, with a spaghetti dinner attended by all participating teachers and many of the visited families. In total, they completed 204 home visits. The same teachers will be participating in the project next year in addition to 25 new teachers who will be trained on the program and then mentored by teachers who are veterans to the program. The participating teachers will be recognized at the next board meeting.
- Summer Pre-K Professional Development
 - Two days are planned for May and two days for in the summer. Additional details will be shared later.
- K-3 Readiness rates
 - The school district is working on matching and exceeding last year's readiness rates for students attending pre-k, even with the increases in attendance issues that were experienced this year.
 - For 3rd grade students, 50% of students are on level this year compared with last year when only 37% were on level. This is the biggest increase that has been seen between years.
 - They are seeing positive data about students achievement. Either the data is similar to what it was at the end of last year or already exceeding it. They believe they'll be able to surpass last years progress by the end of this school year.
- First Book – VOYA Grant
 - Jamie has reached out to Katie Donlevie from First Book to touch base on progress for receiving more books. Katie or Jamie will then follow up with Amanda.