

TECCS in Action

Case Study: Orange County California



Early Development Index (EDI) Statistics

Year of EDI collection:	2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013
Number of Schools:	162
Number of Teachers:	649
Number of Children:	14,925

Communication of EDI Results

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County has presented and shared EDI data with the county's Head Start programs, Children's Home Society, the county's Child Care Coordinator, at the Health Funders Partnership meeting, the Orange County Department of Education, Orange County's Children's Partnership, and with the Olin Group—a local organization that provides planning and evaluation support for non-profits. They also held discussions with the WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC).

Community Use of the EDI Results

Supporting Funding Opportunities

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County and the local school districts have used EDI results in writing state and federal grants to describe their community, and to identify needs and assets. The county has an image of being very high-income and low-need; however, there are many high need areas and neighborhoods throughout the county. The EDI maps illustrate the disparity in both income and child development and help tell the story to potential funders.

Informing Strategic Planning

The EDI data are helping local school districts and community partners make strategic decisions regarding where to expand programs such as state preschools, Learning Link sites (parent child drop-in programs), speech/communication intervention classes, health and developmental screenings, and obesity prevention programs. The maps are also helpful in determining if services are making an impact. So far, the evidence shows that service-rich areas are getting better results than demographically similar neighborhoods that lack services.

Informing Strategic Planning Cont.

The county is in the process of mapping all of the early childhood education (ECE) programs that have been serviced by their many local quality improvement and staff development programs. Once complete, these data will be used in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education to make strategic decisions for recruitment of new centers. In addition, coaches will use EDI data to help support the curriculum planning and parent education happening at participating programs. The needs highlighted in the EDI data will allow for the individualization of programming and information. With the release of more robust EDI data that cover larger parts of the county, attention is now also directed toward getting data to local stakeholders in all areas of children's development to use as a tool for community and county-wide planning.

Federal Early Childhood Initiatives Being Leveraged

- Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge

Partners

- Children & Families Commission of Orange County (primary funder)
- County of Orange
- Orange County Department of Education
- Local school districts

Children & Families Commission of Orange County

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For more information about TECCS go to www.TECCS.net