

TECCS in Action

Case Study: Southern Cameron County

Texas



Early Development Instrument (EDI) Statistics

Year of EDI collection:	2011-2012
Number of Schools:	47
Number of Teachers:	242
Number of Children:	4,296

Communication of EDI Results

United Way of Southern Cameron County invited local businesses to a Community Breakfast at which they did an in person presentation on the EDI project. They did something very similar for resident associations and parents in the community but called them Meriendas. Other presentations were done for elected officials, kindergarten teachers, pre-K teachers, school boards, area superintendents, elementary school principals, all literacy specialist, new teen moms, the Head Start director, private daycare centers and the local university UTB/TSC. For the media, they did interviews, distributed reports and did press releases.

Community Use of the EDI Results

Creating Early Childhood Stakeholder Group

The TECCS project prompted the creation of an early childhood stakeholder group. While several stakeholders would occasionally meet prior to the availability of the EDI data, it was generally an informal conversation and there were always key people or organizations missing. TECCS prompted the gathering together of stakeholders, even those that normally wouldn't work together like Head Start and the workforce board in charge of subsidized child care in the community.

Improving Collaboration

Local school districts are working with Head Start programs and the local Workforce Development Board's Parental Involvement program. The local early childhood association (SMAEYC) is working with United Way, our local workforce and the university (UTB) to provide professional development to a set of child care professionals that aren't normally reached through other trainings specifically targeting highly vulnerable developmental domains in the community. These are just two example of improved cross collaboration.

Informing Strategies

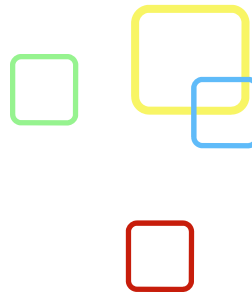
The EDI data showed that physical health and well being was one of the areas of greatest vulnerability. As a result, forty-five child care directors received training and a full set of curriculum for their centers in an effort to help improve this outcome.

The Future

The EDI is being used to make informed decisions about how to invest in and develop programs as well as where to put energy and effort across sectors over the next 5 to 10 years. The data, combined with the opinion of the community, are the meat and potatoes of the strategic plan. All organizations are trying to make sure that their programming is targeting a developmental need that will help move the needle for children in our community.

Funders

- United Way of Southern Cameron County
- Brownsville Foundation for Health and Education
- Texas Early Learning Council



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