DELAWARE READINESS TEAMS ANNOUNCED

Fifteen communities are joining a new initiative, Delaware Readiness Team (DEL TEAMS), designed to support local community teams to prioritize school readiness for young children, birth to age 8, and to develop and implement local action teams. The first teams span all of Delaware's counties and include:

18th & Baynard Team (Wilmington), Brandywine Readiness Partnership, Cape Henlopen Community Team, Center City Wilmington Delaware Readiness Team, Delaware Statewide Programs for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind, Lake Forest Readiness Team, Love A Valuable One Now-The Help I Really Deserve (Milford), Lower Sussex Readiness Team, Mt. Pleasant Community Partnership, North Dover Readiness Team, Seaford Readiness Team, Smyrna Clayton Eaglets Readiness Team, South Dover Readiness Team, Team Keene, and Woodbridge Readiness Team.

The focus of the DEL TEAMs is to build strong, mutual linkages between early learning (0-5) and K-12 schools and to support young children's, birth through age 8, readiness for school and for life. DEL TEAMS will seek to strengthen partnerships with families, early childhood and K-12 educators, health care, human services, and civic leaders to make school readiness and the needs of young children a priority in communities across the state.

Each Delaware Readiness Team has identified a diverse group of community members to participate, including parents, child care providers, school district staff, and other community representatives: healthcare, social services, home visiting, community leaders, etc. After completing a community assessment and action plan, the Delaware Readiness Teams will engage in new strategies to align and coordinate programs and services.

The initiative is supported by the Delaware Office of Early Learning in cooperation with its managing partner, the Delaware Early Childhood Center. Financed by the Early Learning Challenge in partnership with private foundations and corporations, DEL TEAMS is a state-wide initiative that offers a unique opportunity for communities.