


Boston Ready
Maximizing Learning Experiences in K-1


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Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
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ECEPD Grant


- Early Childhood Educators Professional Development Research Grant
- Three awarded in 2006
- \$3.5 million for three years
- Randomized control design

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Primary Partners

- Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston
- Boston Public Schools
 - K-1 classrooms (four-year-olds)
- Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College: independent evaluator




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Additional Partners

- Roxbury Community College
- Horizons for Homeless Children
- Federation for Children with Special Needs
- Hampshire Educational Collaborative


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Intervention


- Professional Development related to the curriculum
- Universal Design - woven into all academic goals for four-year-olds
- Optional, free courses linked with the curriculum for both paraprofessionals and teachers

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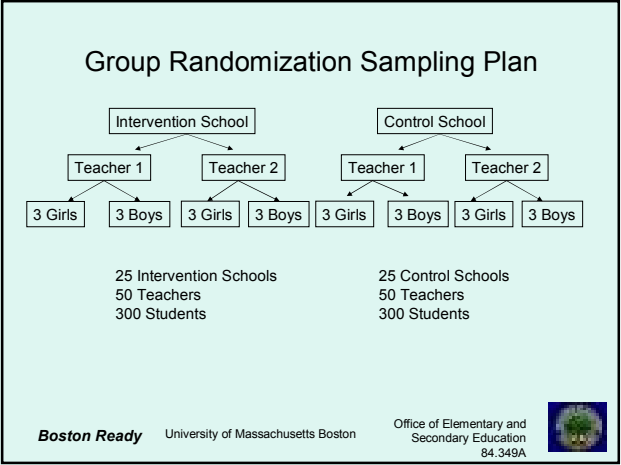
Research / Evaluation


- Group randomization design will optimize number of programs receiving services,
- Randomization classified by blocks:
 - Early Learning Centers, single classrooms
 - Accreditation
 - Bilingual classrooms



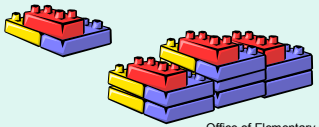
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- ### Assessments
- **Required:**
 - Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test
 - PALS Pre-K
 - ELLCO
 - **Additional:**
 - Woodcock-Johnson III: Applied Problems Subtest
 - Ages and States Questionnaires: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE): parent report
 - Social Skills Rating System: parent & teacher reports
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- ### Survey & Interview Data
- **Teachers: Surveys and Focus Groups:**
 - Professional development experience & evaluation of intervention activities
 - Professional background & demographics
 - **Parent Surveys:**
 - home support for literacy
 - demographics
 - **Reports of disciplinary actions/behavioral problems to be compiled by teachers**
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- ### BPS Preschool Curricula
- **OWL** – a literacy curriculum
 - **Building Blocks** – a mathematics curriculum
 - **Second Step** – a social-emotional curriculum
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- ### Professional Development Activities for Intervention
- **Curriculum implementation**
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Teachers
 - **Enhanced coaching around the integration of the three curricula**
 - **Online support for each curriculum implementation**
 - **Universal Design support**
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- ### Universal Design
- **Use multiple instructional strategies in curriculum**
 - **Provide multiple ways to engage & interact within curriculum**
 - **Provide multiple ways for children to demonstrate knowledge**
 - [Over in the Meadow](#)
 - [As the Crow Flies](#)
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Four courses

- Web-enhanced courses linked to the curricula:
 - Environments ~ Second Step and Universal Design
 - Language Development ~ OWL
 - Math/Science ~ Building Blocks
 - Literacy ~ OWL
- Early Childhood Specialist Credential
- Will apply toward degrees at each level:
 - AA, BA, or MA
- Supported by academic tutor

Additional Supports

- Curriculum materials, as needed
- Career counseling
- Academic support for paraprofessionals or teachers
- Links to other resources in Boston for professional development opportunities

Community Supports

- Parent workshops to support preschoolers' education
- Summer Institute for early childhood faculty



Research Questions

What is the effect on the curriculum implementation of:

- In-depth study of the three curricula?
 - Professional Development
 - Supported by college level courses
- Universal Design?
- Supporting paraprofessionals' professional role?
- Enhanced coaching?

Boston Ready Sites 2006-07

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Clap | • James Curley |
| • East Boston ECE | • Haley |
| • Higginson | • Jackson-Mann |
| • Ellison-Parks EES | • O'Donnell |
| • Quincy | • Tobin |
| • Tynan | • More in 2007-08 |




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Boston Ready Website

www.bostonready.org

- Course materials
- Professional development for curricula
- Professional development schedule
- Threaded discussion board
- Video clips of curricula implementation
- E-portfolios with linkages to career paths
- Searchable database of ECE resources

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Next steps

- Sharing what is learned
- Linking resources with Boston Ready



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