How Broward County Public Schools Overcame Challenges Within Their Child Find
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Agenda
- Broward County Statistics
- Pre-K Population Served
- Community Call For Change
- Centralization
- How to Reduce Timelines
- Documenting Services
- Making Medicaid Dollars Work for You

Participants Will Better Understand:
1. How Broward reduced the overall timelines from the call to Child Find to Eligibility Staffing
2. How Broward County has effectively accessed Medicaid as a Public School System
3. How to ensure staff understand billable services and accurately log for reimbursement
4. How Broward has found success tracking billable services to increase funding
Why Is This a Big Deal?

Broward County Statistics

6th
Largest Public School System in the Nation

2nd
Largest Public School System in Florida

1st
Fully Accredited School System in Florida Since 1962

191
Different Languages Spoken by BCPS Students

Broward County Statistics

2017-2018 Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>5,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K – 5</td>
<td>96,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 8</td>
<td>48,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 12</td>
<td>70,686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>5,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>45,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>271,517</td>
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Pre-K Multidisciplinary Team Members

- School Psychologists
- Speech/Language Pathologists
- Audiologists/Health Technician
- Staffing Specialists
- Transition Specialist
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Visually Impaired Specialist
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Specialist
- ESOL Specialists

Pre-K Statistics

- There are 5,939 children currently enrolled in pre-K programs
- Over 3000 pre-K children are referred for screening and evaluation each school year
- Through hard work and creative strategies:
  - Indicator 11 (60 day timeline) has been met for pre-K cases for many years
  - Indicator 12 (transition to Part B by 3rd birthday) has been 100% compliant since the 2009-2010 school year

Pre-K Statistics

2015-2016 SY Data

- SI
- LI
- VI
- DHH
- EBD
- OHI
- Denials

Denials 1372
VI 511
DHH 363
OHI 811
Pre-K Population Served

- **PART C:** for children birth to age 3
  - Pre-K Part C Teams evaluate children ages 2 years, 9 months through 2 years, 11 months

- **PART B:** for children age 3 to 22
  - Pre-K Part B Teams evaluate children ages 3 years, 0 months through 5 years, 7 months

Why Were Changes Needed?

- Parent complaints regarding the length of time to get services to children
- Processes and timelines varied across geographic areas of the district
- Confusion regarding the various steps and requirements
- Network of community agencies and child advocates became involved
- Public comments at school board meetings
- External Study Task Force

Community Call For Change
Community Call For Change
External Study: Commendations

- Seamless transition of toddlers with disabilities served by the local Early Steps to the district’s Part B Pre-K ESE program.
- Unwavering commitment demonstrated to the program, the children, and their families.
- Individualized attention evident in the evaluations reviewed, particularly in light of the strain on resources resulting from high volume of evaluations completed.

Community Call For Change
External Study: Recommendations

- Request parent feedback regarding barriers they may have experienced in accessing services via customer service poll at each point of contact.
- Revise policy regarding obtaining consent for evaluation so that it is obtained as soon as possible, preferably on the same date as the screening.
- Increase number of teams.
- Increase length of calendar for all pre-K Evaluation/Staffing Personnel from 196 to 216 days.

Broward’s Response
Benefits of Centralization

- Uniformity of processes and procedures
- More opportunities for consultation and collaboration among team members
- Promotes assistance across teams when personnel are absent or attending to needs of other cases
- Multiple children present in the waiting room allows evaluators to observe interactive play prior to assessment appointments
- Model classrooms on campus

Steps Taken To Reduce Overall Timeline

- Additional Staff added
  - 4 evaluation teams 1 staffing specialist 1 lead school psych
  - 1 health technician 3 community liaisons 1 lead SLP
- ESOL staff present on all assessment/staffing days
- Alternate developmental assessment measures
- Electronic calendars for appointments
- School Psychology float help and contract SLPs
- All pre-K personnel moved to 216-day calendar
- Contract work over the summer

Current Structure of Pre-K Assessment Teams

Part C:
- 3 staffing specialists
- 8 evaluation teams
- 1 secretary
- 1 audiologist
- 1 transition specialist

Part B:
- 4 staffing specialists
- 12 evaluation teams
- 2 secretaries
- 1 audiologist
- 1 health technician

Shared Resources: 3 Community Liaisons, 1 Technology Specialist, 1 Office Manager, 1 Information Management Technician
Services Provided by Pre-K Assessment Teams

- Diagnostic screenings for children ages two to five
- Psychoeducational & developmental assessments to determine the learning and emotional needs of preschool children
- Help families from diverse cultural backgrounds understand the needs of their preschoolers
- Assist in developing IEPs for preschool children with disabilities
- Help families navigate special education processes
- Connect families with community service providers

Parent Resources

- Child Find grant utilized to develop a Parent Resource Center in the waiting room area to create a parent-friendly learning environment.
- Parents are able to obtain resources and information regarding community-based resources including:
  - brochures and booklets on developmental milestones
  - parent workshop fliers (e.g., HOT DOCS; Active Parenting)
  - parent workshop training calendar published by FDLRS Parent Services
  - Information from the "Learn the Signs" national public awareness Center for Disease Control initiative
  - local 211 Broward Helpline brochure

A Day In the World of Pre-K
A Day In The World Of Pre-K
Standardized Assessment

Medicaid Billable Services

Documentation of Evaluation

- Each pre-K team member documents evaluation in compliance with federal and state Medicaid regulations.
- Jointly pre-K team members create a Multidisciplinary Team report that is uploaded to the student record (titles, signatures and dates for each evaluator included).
- The School Medicaid Office determines if the evaluations documented by the School Psychologist, Speech/Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist are eligible to submit to Medicaid.
Documentation of Evaluation

- Pre-K School Psychologist documents all services provided as part of an evaluation (Review of Records, Interview, Observation, and Testing) (Florida pays for total time spent on evaluation activities)
- Pre-K SLP documents an evaluation was conducted (Florida pays per evaluation regardless of time spent on evaluation activities)
- Occupational Therapist documents evaluation (same as SLP)
- Physical Therapist documents evaluation (same as SLP)

Documentation of Evaluation

Various electronic databases are utilized to capture evaluation data to assist with:
- Tracking services for individual students
- 60-day timeline compliance
- Collecting trend data
- Medicaid billing

Making Medicaid Dollars Work for You
Broward Resources Funded by Medicaid

- School Psychology Internship program
- Contract SLPs
- Growth Positions (additional evaluators)
- Testing Materials and Protocols
- Professional Development

Questions?