

ABSTRACT

United Way of Greater Atlanta has an extensive history of implementing large education initiatives. Our proposed four-year i3 development project *PACE, Partners Advancing Childhood Education*, focuses on **Absolute Priority 6: Improving Parent and Family Engagement, Subpart A**. Our project will take an innovative approach to early childhood education by implementing a comprehensive program targeting family engagement and family-school partnerships simultaneously to improve student outcomes by strengthening the ability of families to support their child's education and school staff to build effective home-school partnerships from PreK to grade three. *PACE* will reach more than 900 students in our two hubs, Indian Creek and Jolly Elementary Schools, as well as eight child care centers and family child care providers in Clarkston, GA. Key outcome and objective areas include: (1) Ready Parents: improve parent and family engagement in child's education; (2) Ready Schools: build family-school partnerships; and (3) Ready Students: increase school readiness and student achievement. Project activities include: home visitation, parent group meetings, Referral Resource Network, Parent Leadership Institute with parent led community projects, ongoing professional development, School Transition Council, year-round transition activities, transition plans, Summer Transition Academy, and developmental and health screenings for students. *PACE* has the benefit of involving national (Parents As Teachers National Center, Parent Services Project, United Way Worldwide) and state/local partners (DeKalb County Schools, University of GA Center for Family Research, Atlanta Speech School, Refugee Family Services, GA Campaign for Grade Level Reading, GA Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, GA Department of Early Care and Learning) who have their own networks through which our project will be studied and findings disseminated. Match will be provided by the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation.