

Project Abstract

Project objectives and activities

Legacy Charter School is proposing the completion of a Pay for Success (PFS) Feasibility Study pilot grant to determine the viability of using PFS to provide high-quality 3 and 4-year-old preschool classes to the children of the West Greenville community who do not currently have access to quality preschool.

Legacy Charter is currently in the early planning stages of building a preschool facility.

Legacy Charter School seeks to explore utilizing the *Every Child Ready* model, developed by AppleTree Institute. *Every Child Ready* is a comprehensive instructional model piloted in 31 AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School classroom in Washington, D.C. The model was further developed through a U.S. department of Education Investing in Innovation (i3) grant, awarded in 2010.

The proposed Pay for Success Preschool Partnership will build off of Legacy Charter's existing partnerships, with a specific focus on early childhood. Partners will include the existing partners at Greenville Hospital System and Furman University; an intermediary and partner in the feasibility study process with extensive experience in early childhood and PFS research; an evaluator, to be determined through a competitive bid; and other engaged philanthropic and civic organizations. Legacy Charter will serve as the lead agency on this PFS feasibility study.

A contractor will conduct the feasibility study and Legacy Charter will develop a Request for Proposals for an evaluator to join the PFS Partnership. As an independent evaluator will be necessary if a feasibility study finds a PFS project is viable, evaluation experts recommend engaging with an evaluator early in the process.

The proposed project will be made up of the following activities: identification of outcome(s) sought; assessment of community needs, assets, and capacity; identification of a challenge(s) or barrier(s) for serving the particular population and determination of the total costs associated with the lack of intervention; identification of interventions that can achieve the desired outcome(s); projection of the potential public value; determination of the willingness and capacity of stakeholders to implement a PFS project; and development of a rigorous evaluation methodology to determine if the selected outcome measures have been achieved. Throughout the process, the Partnership will engage stakeholders to ensure buy-in to the PFS project, gather their expertise, and receive feedback on the feasibility study. Feedback from locally engaged experts will ensure that any potential project has viability on the ground.

Applicable priorities

This project will focus on the applicable priority of Feasibility Study.

Proposed project outcomes

This project would focus on to improving the kindergarten readiness of community children through measures of cognitive, social, emotional, language, vocabulary, and pre-literacy skills. Preschool Pay for Success Feasibility study offers Legacy Charter the opportunity to assess and strengthen data systems and infrastructure needed to track children's near and longer-term outcomes. We include Kindergarten readiness as an outcome, as assessed by the Greenville Kindergarten readiness assessment, "Profile of the Ready Kindergartener." Legacy Charter does not intend to explore possible outcome measures related to placement in special education services during this feasibility study. We include the ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire), ASQ-SE (Ages and Stages Questionnaire- Social, Emotional), and PPVT (Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test) among the developmentally-appropriate assessments that will be used to measure outcomes. The *Every Child Ready* model includes literacy and math summative assessments to measure growth three times throughout the year.