

Birth – Gr. 3 Continuum and School as Hub

Our Journey and Lessons Learned

Welcome and Introductions

DC West Community Schools

DC West Early Education and
Elementary School



Valley and Waterloo, Nebraska and
surrounding areas

918 Students PK-12

DC West Early Education and
Elementary, 401 students PK-4

37% Free/Reduced Lunch

15% Mobility

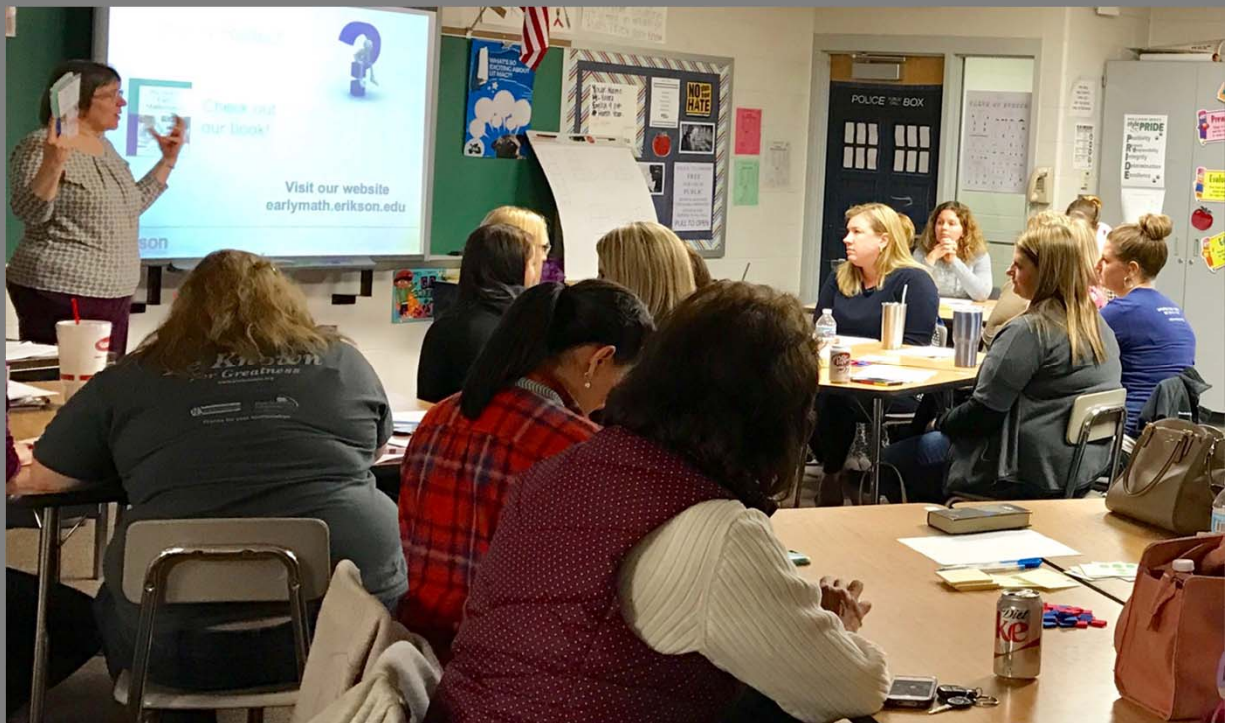
NeSA Proficiency 2015-16~ Math, 91%;
Reading, 90%



- PK-12 Enrollment: 23,980
- 25 Elementary Schools
- 18% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 2 Full Implementation Sites
 - Cody Elementary 64%FRL
 - Sandoz Elementary 57% FRL
- NeSA Proficiency (2015-16) Math, 87%;
Reading, 91.6%

Full Implementation Site

- ★ Home Visitor
- ★ Family Facilitator
- ★ Educational Facilitator



Changing Perspectives in Birth to Grade 3

Educating the entire family and providing resources

Looking at Birth-Gr 3 as a continuum of learning not as a separate entity

Defining EDN vs Home Visiting vs Social Workers

Connection with high school counselors to connect with teen moms

Understanding the overall development (including brain development) of children beyond pre-k

Leadership in Birth to Grade 3

- Gap closing strategies
- Social emotional learning curriculum connection in PK
- Communication between stakeholders/ownership
- Differences in supervision
- Family centered vs the traditional student centered



Creating School as a Hub~ It's worth the investment

“A Very Bold Vision”

Sam Meisels

founding Executive Director

Buffett Early Childhood Institute



School as a Hub influence on district policy or practice

- Sliding Scale
- Staff evaluation
- 12 month employees
- Salaried vs hourly
- Summer
- Transition to preschool



Family Engagement and Support for Effective Parenting

- Role of the facilitator
- Community Partnerships
- Reaching beyond the immediate community
- Professional Development to support family engagement



Advice to others wanting to begin Birth-Gr 3 program

Investment and commitment from the district

Educate your stakeholders about the structure and curriculum in the program

Define your needs

Plan for the changes in district policy/practices/site plans

Plan for implementation

Align to your current strategic plan/initiatives

Create physical space



Millard and DC West's next steps:

- Curriculum alignment inclusive of Pre-K
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Deepen family partnerships
 - Family engagement that is more family friendly



“We can become a beacon for early childhood, and the power of that can flow through our entire state.”

Jim Sutfin
Superintendent
Millard Public Schools

