



Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success

2023-2024 Annual Report



Presented by
PAASSS

Prepared by
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Letter From Our Chairperson

A Message from Laurel Mateyka:

In February 2018, a critical need sparked a powerful movement. Recognizing the lack of a collaborative support system for early childhood development in Kendall County, local leaders gathered at PH Miller Elementary School. There, a shared vision was born: "to strengthen the community by ensuring equitable access to services and supports that empower families to raise safe, healthy, and eager learners."

This vision became the Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success (PAASSS). Founded as an early childhood collaboration, PAASSS aimed to bridge opportunity gaps and ensure all Plano children entered kindergarten prepared for success. While its origins stemmed from a funding requirement, PAASSS blossomed into a vital resource for families across the region.

Our journey began with a simple dream, and in just six years, PAASSS has accomplished remarkable feats. We persevered through the pandemic, establishing a charter agreement, strategic plan, and a recognizable brand. We even hosted a community screening of "No Small Matter," igniting conversations about the importance of early childhood development.

Through dedicated outreach efforts, PAASSS has delivered a multitude of impactful services:

- **Free Playgroups:** Fostering early socialization and learning.
- **Spanish Rhyme Time:** Engaging bilingual families with their children.
- **Monthly Developmental Screenings:** Identifying potential needs early.
- **Increased Preschool Access:** Connecting families with crucial educational opportunities.
- **Plano Family Resource Center:** Providing a central hub for support and resources.
- **Annual Events:** Addressing essential topics like car seat safety and preparing children for kindergarten.

A significant milestone arrived in Fall 2023. The Grundy/Kendall Regional Office of Education became our fiscal sponsor, allowing us to secure funding from Birth to Five IL. This crucial support allowed us to build a user-friendly website, expand outreach activities, and introduce the IRIS framework to the Grundy/Kendall Region 24.

Our achievements are a testament to the tireless dedication of our team. However, long-term success requires consistent funding and strategic planning. As we strive to engage more families, offer a wider range of services, and secure resources for an executive director, we turn to you, our valued community and partners. Together, we can shape a future where all families are "aware and have equitable access to services supporting success."

Growing Together and Empowering Families



Laurel Mateyka

Chairperson, Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success

About PAASSS

PAASSS is a community collaborative serving Plano, IL and the surrounding areas with a promise to support children and families in their journey to success in learning and life.

Partnering for Awareness and Access to Services Supporting Success for All

Awareness and access equals equity. P.A.A.S.S.S. defines equity as fairness and justice, focusing on outcomes that are most appropriate for a given group, recognizing different challenges, needs, and histories.

It is distinct from diversity, which can simply mean variety (the presence of individuals with various identities). It is also not equality, or “same treatment,” which doesn’t take different needs or disparate outcomes into account.

Systemic equity involves a robust system and dynamic process consciously designed to create, support, and sustain social justice.

How PAASSS Helps

Early Learning collaboration works in partnership with early education directors, teachers, and in-home care providers to ensure families have access to high-quality programs and well-trained educators to enable them to have children developmentally and social-emotionally ready for Kindergarten.

P.A.A.S.S.S. builds a connected system to ensure families have access to equitable early learning programs and resources for smooth transitions from birth to Kindergarten for our children.

- Community Engagement
- Family Engagement
- Health & Development

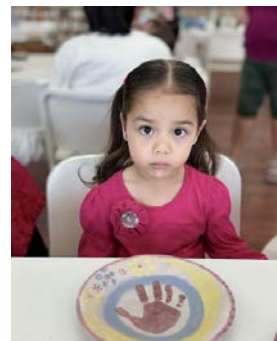
Vision & Mission

Mission Statement

PAASSS (Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success) will strengthen the community by ensuring that all families in the Plano area are aware of and have equitable access to services and supports that empower them to raise children that are safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed.

Vision Statement

A community where all children and families are empowered to succeed in learning and in life.



PAASSS Leadership

The PAASSS Leadership Team is made up of members of partner organizations that are committed to creating a community where all children and families are empowered to succeed in learning and in life. The leadership team meets monthly to handle operational business, cultivate cross-sector partnerships, build and develop collaborative relationships, and employ a solution-focused approach to meeting the needs of families in the communities served by PAASSS.



LAUREL MATEYKA

PH MILLER
Principal/ PAASSS Chairperson



ANGELICA NICOLA

PH MILLER
Bilingual Family Support Worker



SHERRI RACHFORD

PH MILLER
Family Support Worker



COREY MCKNIGHT

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL
Parent Referral Specialist



CORINA QUIÑONEZ

MUTUAL GROUND
Bilingual therapist



JACKIE EADE

FOX VALLEY YMCA
Operations & Community
Relations Director



JOELY JOHNSON

MUTUAL GROUND
Family Services Manager



MARIAH GONZALEZ

COMMUNITY
Parent Representative



MARTHA VENETUCCI-NENNI

SANDWICH 430
Principal



MELISSA VARGAS

FAMILY FOCUS
Healthy Families Doula/Supervisor



MIA JUSUFI

GRUNDY/KENDALL CO. ROE
Truancy Director

Our History

2018

In December, 2018 PAASSS formed a Leadership Team and applied to become part of the Partner Plan Act I Collaboration Institute (PPACI). Accepted into the Inaugural Cohort, PAASSS received monthly coaching and other targeted support throughout 2019.



2018 PAASSS Leadership Team

PAASSS held its first meeting in February, 2018 and has met quarterly thereafter. The collaboration was formed to bring together early childhood stakeholders in the Plano area to network, find and share resources for families/children, and provide services to families and children prenatal to 3rd grade. Because the Plano area is located at the crossroads of 4 counties, resources are often located outside of the area. As with many communities, more resources, historically, have been focused on older children.

2019

The Plano Family Resource Center opens at the Plano Methodist Church in Plano Illinois.



Plano Family Resource Center original Grand Opening in January, 2019

2020

Charter agreement is complete. The leadership team completes strategic planning and finalizes the first strategic plan. The strategic plan and is reviewed and updated annually by the leadership team.



No Small Matter

2021

PAASSS partnered with the Plano Area Chamber of Commerce to offer a community wide screening of No Small Matter followed by a panel discussion. Viewing was offered in person and virtually.

2022

Informational posters in Spanish and English are posted on examination room doors at Healthy Beginnings Pediatrics. Parents/families can scan QR codes to request information, schedule a developmental screening, sign up for play groups, and more.

The PPACI Targeted Supports application provides information about early victories of PAASSS and its participating organizations. These include: receiving a Pre-K Expansion grant, program partnerships between PH Miller and the YMCA, the establishment of a Family Resource Center.

Kendall County Community Food Pantry Satellite Site



The Kendall County Community Food Pantry satellite site was relocated to the First Lutheran Church, Plano whose mission is feeding the hungry. The new location is more centrally located and allows families and/or community members struggling with food insecurity to have access to the resources they need throughout the month.

PAASSS Collaboration Leaders and Fox Valley YMCA



Collaboration leaders from Plano CUSD 88 and Fox Valley Family YMCA work together to open three school district preschool classrooms on site at the YMCA in August 2022. The school district provided funding to renovate the spaces.

2023

Grand re-opening of the expanded Plano Family Resource Center. Two additional rooms were added and partners are able to co-locate at the resource center to bring services to our community.



Did You Know?



Only 1 in 5 children in Grundy/Kendall Region 24 meet readiness benchmarks in kindergarten.

85-90%

85-90% of brain growth occurs in the first 3 years of life.



13%



High quality birth to five programs for disadvantaged children can deliver a 13% return on investment.

2,000



There are only 2000 days from birth to kindergarten.

13,494

There are 13,494 children under the age of 5 living in Grundy/Kendall county



25%



Children who experience high-quality early learning and care programs are 25% more likely to graduate high school.



The Power of Collaboration

1,038

Parent Mentors
Hours working with
children.



93%

Family
Engagement.

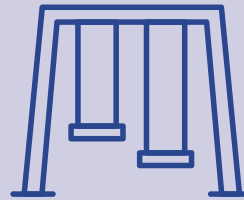
Families
served
through the
community
baby
shower.

51



1,196
Students PK-5 received 8
books and a bonus journal
mailed to their home
address.

The First Lutheran Church
satellite pantry serves an
average of 77 families and 258
individuals each month. Over
the past 6 months, an average
of 10-12 new families
registered per month.



73

Families enrolled
in playgroups.

51

Families enrolled
in Spanish Rhyme
Time.



10,609

SEL/Pyramid Resources
Given to Families.



133

Children Screened
this year.



249

Children Enrolled in
Preschool.



Trained over 100 early childhood education and care providers
(63 child care providers and 50 school staff) in Conscious Discipline.

Financial Outlook

Funders

Thank you to our funders who partner with PAASSS to support children and families in their journey to success in learning and life.

\$78,000

\$78,000 implementation grant recipient; funds from **Birth to Five Illinois**.

\$8,400

\$8,400 in support from Plano **CUSD 88** for maintenance, custodial support, and utilities at the Plano Family Resource Center.

\$1,900

\$1900 donation to PAASSS from **WIDA** for our role in their project about transitions from PK to K for multilingual learners. They filmed our playgroups, interviewed our parent mentor coordinator, a parent, our family support workers, and one of our community partners to learn more about how we are supporting families in our community.

\$1,000

Illinois Action for Children - compensation for helping the CS3 team understand the cost of operating and expanding early childhood collaborations.

Looking Forward

Strategic Goals

1. Build awareness of the variety of resources and services available to families in the community.

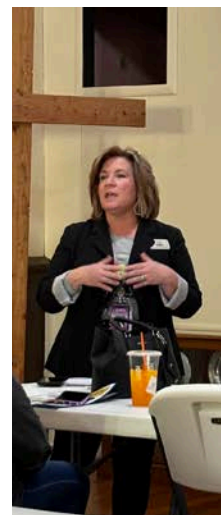
- PAASSS will develop and maintain a website and social media presence to support communication and information sharing.
- PAASSS will build and maintain a comprehensive list of community resources available to families and children in our community.

2. Encourage broad support and participation from diverse community stakeholders to increase outreach.

- Recruit new members from specific stakeholder groups including medicine, local government, parents, family care providers, and childcare providers.
- Develop and maintain a list of members that is reviewed quarterly to ensure broad participation and engagement across the four-county service area.

3. Increase awareness of the importance of early childhood education for the whole community.

- Collect data to determine gaps and areas of need.
- Investigate potential funding and partnership opportunities to support community events.
- Create, support, and promote events for the community to improve early childhood education (i.e., developmental screenings, prevention initiative services, educational events, speakers) to increase engagement in early childhood education.
- Determine metrics to track regularly, i.e. to increase developmental screenings by 10%; the number of referrals to services; the number of screenings from 0-3 and 3-5 years of age; the number of entities doing screenings per community. Establish a process for collecting and reporting data.



Future Support Efforts

- ROE 24 in partnership with Fox Valley United Way are supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Grundy and Kendall Counties.
- IRIS coordinated intake and referral system in Grundy and Kendall Counties; cost will be \$18,512 to implement and \$9000 annually to maintain.
- COFI training to begin with orientation on June 21.
- Hire an executive director.



Why Donate?

PAASSS relies on the generosity of individuals like you to fund our programs and services. With your support, we can:

- Provide FREE playgroups, offer parent education, and host an annual community baby shower.
- Support families in finding affordable, high quality early childhood care and education services.
- Advocate for developmental screenings for all children ages birth to five years old.
- Educate the community about the importance of early childhood education and care.

Your Support Matters

Every donation, no matter how big or small, helps us make a difference in the lives of children and families. Together, we can ensure that families in the Plano area are aware of and have equitable access to services and supports that empower them to raise children that are safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. #ECECbestROI

Other Ways to Support

Volunteer: Donate your time and skills by volunteering with PAASSS. Whether you're interested in helping at events, assisting with fundraising activities, or providing administrative support, we have volunteer opportunities available for everyone.

Spread the Word: Help us raise awareness about PAASSS and our mission by sharing our website, social media posts, and events with your friends, family, and colleagues.

Host a Fundraiser: Organize a fundraiser or donation drive in your community to support PAASSS. Whether it's a bake sale, garage sale, or online crowdfunding campaign, every dollar raised helps make a difference for children and families in need.

To make a tax-deductible donation and invest in the wellbeing of children in our community scan the QR code or visit our website at:
PAASSS.org/donate/



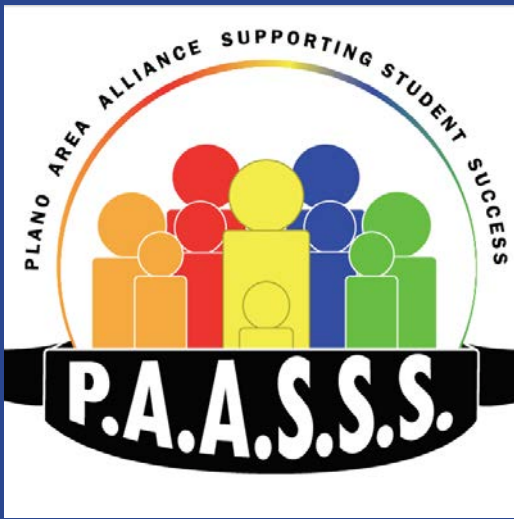
Community Partners

- Behavioral Perspective
- Birth to Five Region 24
- CASA Kendall County
- Changing Children’s Worlds
- Child and Family Connections (CFC4)
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- FVFY Early Learning Academy
- Family Focus
- Fox Valley Family YMCA
- Fox Valley United Way
- Grace’s Place
- Grundy/Kendall Regional Office of Education
- Healthy Beginnings Pediatric
- Joliet Easter Seals
- Kendall County 211
- Kendall County Community Action
- Kendall County Health Department
- Mutual Ground
- Nandra Family Practice
- Oswego School District 308
- Plano CUSD 88
- Plano Community Library District
- Plano Education Foundation
- Plano Police Department
- Rush Copley Health Care
- Sandwich School District 430
- Two Rivers Head Start
- Plano Methodist Church
- Plano Public Library
- Yorkville School District 115



Current Onsite Partners Schedule

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Family Focus	Plano CUSD 88 Playgroups	Child Care Resource and Referral	Mutual Ground
Provides holistic family support services to families and children enrolled in center programming, home visits, emergency assistance services, and educational programs.	Offers quality play and parent network opportunities in a safe educational environment.	Serves as a resource hub for families, child care professionals and communities.	Serving Families and Individuals Impacted by Domestic and Sexual Violence and Substance Use Disorders

If you are interested in partnering to support PAASSS’s vision of a community where all children and families are empowered to succeed in learning and in life, contact: paassinfo@gmail.com



Connect With Us

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SCAN TO
VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE!

