

**ACTION 3.2**

*Ensure children of color, children from low-income families, and children with disabilities can benefit from early care and education programs by providing wraparound services such as transportation to and from school, before- and after-school care, summer care, and meals*

# Provide **WRAPAROUND SERVICES** for **HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE** and **EDUCATION**

**Wraparound services are child and family supports that are integrated with early care and education settings. They help to address social and non-academic barriers to student learning. They can also help maximize child and family engagement in services throughout the year, particularly for families from overburdened and under-resourced communities. Holistic supports like school meals, transportation, and high-quality summer programs can help to improve student's physical and emotional needs, school attendance, and academic achievement.**

## **WHAT WE KNOW**

Wraparound services are designed to provide families and children with a broad range of economic, academic, social, and behavioral supports. Wraparound services are provided through bringing together a broad range of stakeholders in the identification, development, and implementation of interventions that can support children and families across many life settings that extend beyond the classroom.

Services that address the social needs of families, including access to transportation and nutritious foods, are integral in supporting the well-being of young children in early care and education settings. In particular, the quality of transportation and planning affects the extent to which caregivers can access the services they need for healthy development, including sources of healthy food, well-baby clinics, parks, and play spaces. Investment in strategic efforts by child care and early education settings to recognize and address the varying degrees of access of families to these services in order to create targeted interventions are crucial.

Staff from homeless education, early childhood education, and housing programs identified **TRANSPORTATION (27%) AND LACK OF SPACES (25%) AS THE MOST FREQUENT BARRIERS** for homeless children's access to early childhood services.

## Dive Into the Data

Children growing up in **neighborhoods with high poverty levels** can be doubly disadvantaged because they have higher levels of needs for support and are more likely to attend under-resourced care and early learning settings. Explore other indicators related to wrap-around services on the **Pathways Data Dashboard**.

## WHAT WE NEED

In addition to services led by early care and education programs, broader structures that work across sectors to enhance the accessibility of wraparound services are needed. In particular, **city planning has a crucial role** in creating and sustaining walkable neighborhoods, child-friendly streets, and car regulations in areas where children spend the most time.

Integrating these concerns into early care and education settings will help address non-academic barriers to student learning.

## HOW TO SUPPORT

Child care programs serving high-need families can be places where state departments that oversee public benefits, early learning, and early intervention resources embed case managers to provide vulnerable families assistance completing forms and verifications for access to food, rent, housing, and employment services, as well as physical, dental, and psychological wellness screenings and referrals for care. The families most in need of support have the fewest social, transportation, material, and time resources needed to access services their children rely on.

Investing in wraparound services recognizes that all areas of children's and families' lives—**including those beyond the classroom**—are of importance in helping young children thrive.

## INITIATIVES WORKING IN THIS AREA



**REACH**, an initiative of Passage Home, offers case management services with the goal of addressing the social-emotional, behavioral, developmental, and academic needs of children. In addition, the Motel Connect initiative involves select families receiving perishable and non-perishable food delivered to their current residence on a weekly basis, and Teach4REACH provides tutoring services by a qualified volunteer with the goal of helping them develop the skills to reach their academic goals.



**Charlotte Bilingual Preschool** prepares Spanish-speaking children for success in school and life by providing superior dual language, multicultural early childhood education. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they have surveyed families on their needs, made referrals to existing community assistance programs, and coordinated resources for needs not already being met, including coordinating volunteers to provide one-on-one technology support and culturally appropriate meals and groceries.



**READ Wayne** is a coalition dedicated to providing support and resources to children from birth to age 8 and their families, with the aim of ensuring that all children are proficient readers by the end of third grade. With a commitment to equity and inclusivity, Read Wayne works in partnership with families and community organizations to bolster school readiness, school attendance, and summer learning. READ Wayne believes that engaged communities have the ability and responsibility to increase cross-sector partnerships so that all children can read and succeed.

**Visit the Pathways Action Map to learn more about these and other initiatives leading efforts in this area.**