



The Early Learning Strategies Dissemination Project

Webinar #1: Updates from Emerging Research on School Readiness

New York, NY | February 11, 2009



National Center for Children in Poverty
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University



The National Center for Children in Poverty

- ◆ NCCP is a non-partisan, public interest research organization at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.
- ◆ NCCP uses research to promote the economic security, health, and well-being of America's low-income children and families.
- ◆ Our ultimate goal: Improved outcomes for the next generation.



The Early Learning Strategies Dissemination Project

- ◆ Based on NCCP's recent work to track and document the emerging knowledge base on effective early learning
- ◆ Purpose is to provide easily accessible information to key stakeholders to improve effective early learning and professional development strategies with their constituencies



Participating Stakeholders

- ◆ School related organizations
 - ASCD, CCSO, NASTID, NAECS-SDE
- ◆ Faculty in community colleges
 - ACCESS, NAECTE, League of Innovation in the Community College
- ◆ Child care administrators
 - NAEYC, NTAC, NCCIC, NACCRRA
- ◆ National Governors Association (NGA)



Webinar # 1 – Update from Emerging Research in School Readiness

- ◆ Welcome and Introductions - Lisa Klein
- ◆ Lisa Klein and Jean Layzer - A synthesis of recent and emerging research
- ◆ Diane Trister Dodge - Response
- ◆ Discussion with the online audience



HHS's *A Working Meeting on Recent School Readiness Research*

- ◆ Held in Washington DC in October 2008
 - Sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and the Administration for Children and Families. Abt Associates Inc. and NCCP convened the meeting.
- ◆ Purpose: Synthesize findings from recent federally-funded research on the readiness gap and evaluate the state of knowledge about how to prepare young children for school
- ◆ Examined approaches to improving child outcomes (language/literacy, math, and social-emotional) plus strategies for professional development



HHS's *A Working Meeting on Recent School Readiness Research*

- ◆ Out of many important questions in the field, the meeting focused on:
 - How much more can we do during the preschool period through early childhood programs?
 - How can we improve early childhood programs to maximize their potential for promoting children's development and school readiness?



HHS's *A Working Meeting on Recent School Readiness Research*

- ◆ Meeting attendees were asked to consider the state of the research:
 - How much do we understand about the school readiness gap and what we can do about it through early childhood care and education programs?
 - How far have we come in defining and answering the key questions about early childhood in the preschool years?
 - How does it relate to what we do before and after the preschool years?



What Emerging Research Tells Us So We Can Guide Programs and Best Practice

- ◆ Jean Layzer will focus on the nature of the gap, particularly in language and literacy which you will hear more about next
- ◆ Children make meaningful gains from 6 different math curricula depending on what the learning objectives are but we don't use the same measures or know what parts of instruction were most powerful (Working Paper by Ginsburg et al., 2008)
- ◆ Curricula and training can improve children's attention, effort, persistence (self-regulation) and social skills but less on decreasing problem behavior (Working Papers by Raver, Klein & Gombay, 2008)



HHS's *A Working Meeting on Recent School Readiness*

- ◆ Research identified areas for future research:
 - Effects across diverse early learning settings (pre-K, Head Start, child care)
 - Effects for diverse groups of children and teachers (ELL's, immigrants, ages)
 - The definition of readiness and how it best measured
 - The parts of curricula that lead to the greatest gains
 - The specific training activities (PD) that help change teacher practice and improve children's achievement



References: Working Papers prepared for A Working Meeting on School Readiness Research

- ◆ School Readiness and Early Childhood Education: What Can We Learn from Federal Investments in Research on Mathematics Programs? Ginsburg, H., Lewis, A., & Clements, M.
- ◆ Promoting Children's Socioemotional Development in Contexts of Early Education Intervention and Care: A Review of the Impact of Federally Funded Research Initiatives on Young Children's School Readiness. Raver, C.C.
- ◆ A Synthesis of Federally-Funded Studies on School Readiness: What are We Learning About Professional Development? Klein, L.G., and Gomby, D.S.
- ◆ Full Papers will be available on the ASPE website: www.aspe.hhs.gov