## Birth to Age 8

Establishing a Strong Foundation for Lifetime Success



The Birth to Age 8
Collaborative initiative brings essential Dakota County partners and services together to assure children reach key developmental milestones from birth to age eight.

# Dakota County Districts South Saint Fault West St. Pault Mention Public Health Social Services Who is Involved? South Saint Fault West St. Pault Mention Burnsville Eagan-Savage Inver Grave Heights Nonprofit Agencies 360 Communities CAP/Head Start



#### **OUR VISION**

100% of identified children meet the state proficiency reading target by the spring of the third grade and families receive the necessary supports to succeed.

#### HOW WILL WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- ★ IDENTIFY early those children who face challenges to healthy development and school success.
- TRACK developmental milestones during critical early years to ensure school readiness and reading at grade level by age 8.
- CONNECT children and families to the necessary supports to succeed.

### WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Research tells us that if children are reading proficiently by third grade, they are more likely to graduate high school and achieve greater economic success.

#### **OUR SUCCESSES**

- Developed communication methods to promote rates of early childhood screening before age four.
- Partnered with school districts on a data school years sharing portal to track developmental milestones to ensure school readiness and reading at grade level by third grade.
- Implemented an innovative and intentional referral process between the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and school districts.

Through the WIC project, families are being connected to important early childhood resources and supports.

In 2019, 12 percent of referrals resulted in early childhood screening, and 32 percent resulted in enrollment in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE).

Oct 2016 - Dec 2019
1,215 Referrals
made
to the four school districts
by Dakota County WIC staff

Kindergarteners

Four District Total

Screened Before Age 4

Of these families



#### Recipient of

- 2018 MODEL PRACTICES

  National Association of County and
  City Health Officials (NACCHO)
  - 2017 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
    National Association of Counties (NAGO
    - 2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION
      Humphrey School of Public Affairs













