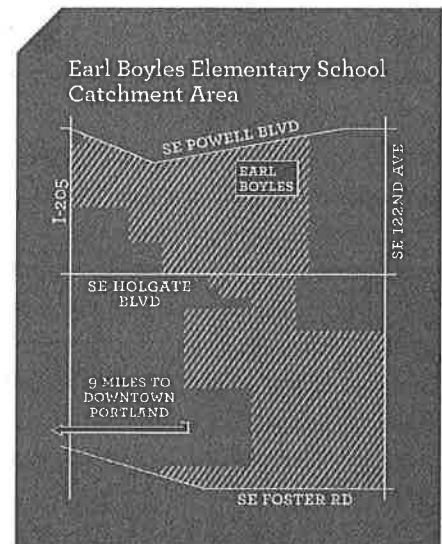




**EARLY
WORKS**

Transforming Education Together

OUR VISION *Begins at Birth*



BUILDING A NEW MODEL FOR EDUCATION

Over the past several decades, the growing body of research on early childhood has shown that children begin learning the moment they are born. When they start kindergarten, those with fewer resources and advantages are already significantly behind the developmental curve. This gap has a long reach, affecting graduation rates, future earnings and health outcomes.

The good news is there are proven methods to help put these children on a path to success in school and life. But these interventions must be made before children reach kindergarten. While many districts and policymakers are interested in implementing these practices, the path is not always clear.

The Children's Institute started the Early Works initiative to demonstrate how aligning early education and development programs with the elementary grades can ensure school readiness and future success. It is our goal that the results and lessons learned from this project will inform policymakers and educators who are working to address the achievement gap.

Together with our partners at the David Douglas School District, the Children's Institute began this initiative in 2010 at Earl Boyles Elementary School in Southeast Portland.

Third-graders who live in poverty and read below grade level are six times more likely than their peers to fail to graduate from high school.

— "Double Jeopardy: How Poverty and Third Grade Reading Skills Influence High-School Graduation," commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation

THE VISION

The fundamental goal of the Early Works initiative is to help children arrive at kindergarten ready for success, prepared to meet critical benchmarks by third grade, and able to go on to achieve success in school and life. The school is the anchor for this project, serving as a place for community partners to provide resources, information, services, and educational opportunities for children ages birth to eight. These early learning experiences then become part of a robust elementary education.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Knowledge gained through this demonstration is relevant to other districts, communities, and policymakers. We are interested in how best to: close the achievement gap and prepare children for kindergarten; build shared governance across systems; track, manage and share information about children and programs in order to spur continuous quality improvement; blend and braid funding and accurately capture the cost of providing quality early educational opportunities; and integrate professional development for teachers and providers across the birth-to-third-grade spectrum.

THE ROADMAP

Our goals for this project include:

- *Providing universally available services for families and children starting at birth. Examples of elements that are already in place include parent-child education classes, preschool, a summer literacy program, and home visits for rising kindergarten students.*
- *Integrating and aligning these quality early educational programs with the elementary grades.*
- *Evaluating and documenting the process to inform others.*

WHY EARL BOYLES?

The children attending Earl Boyles face a host of risk factors related to the achievement gap, including poverty, language barriers and a lack of high-quality early educational experiences. As a result, test scores through fifth grade lag behind state standards.

Despite these challenges, the leadership both at the school and at the district level is committed to improving the odds for the children at Earl Boyles. Parents at Earl Boyles are also engaged and enthusiastic. In a community needs assessment conducted as part of the initiative, both parents and teachers made clear their wish for more opportunities for group-based early childhood programs. This combination of need, motivation and commitment makes Earl Boyles an ideal home for the initiative.



Join the Conversation

See more pictures and read about the Early Works initiative — including the Early Works blog and the most recent status reports — at early-works.org.

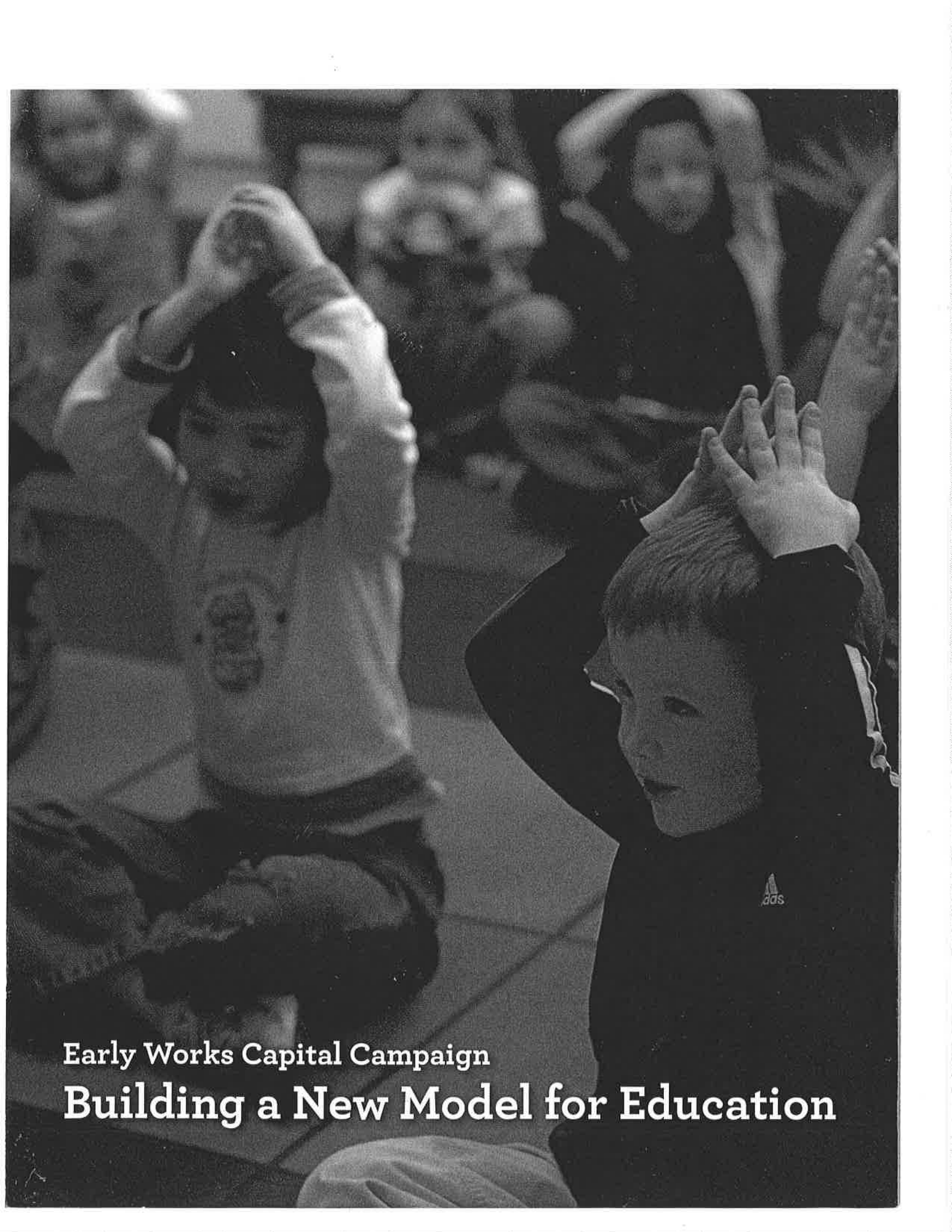
An Initiative of the Children's Institute

The Children's Institute promotes wise investments and effective action in early childhood. Our work is anchored in a commitment to closing the achievement gap early with cost-effective public and private investments in early learning.

Learn more at childinst.org.

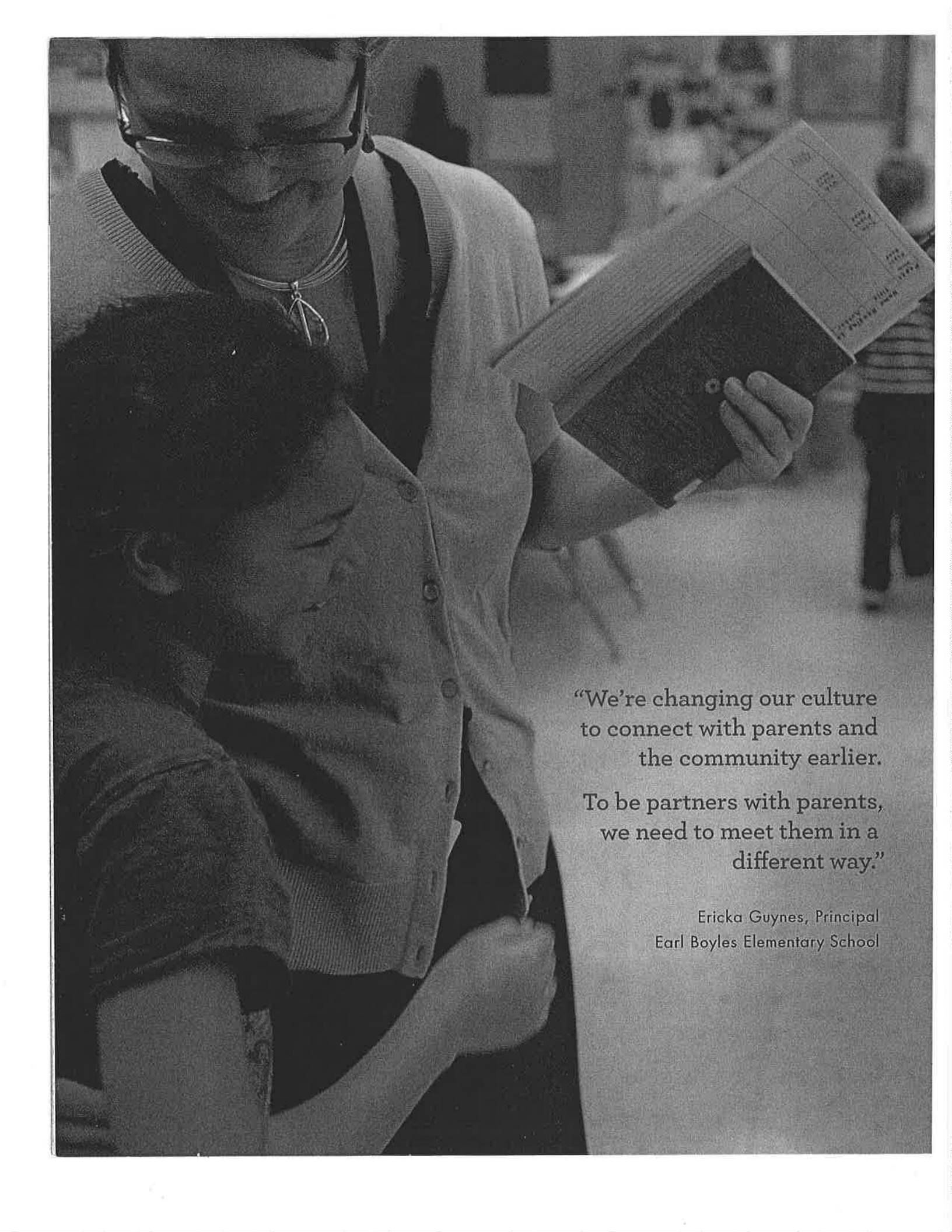
Children's
Institute





Early Works Capital Campaign

Building a New Model for Education



“We’re changing our culture
to connect with parents and
the community earlier.

To be partners with parents,
we need to meet them in a
different way.”

Ericka Guynes, Principal
Earl Boyles Elementary School

EARLY WORKS

a new starting line for education

Only 68 percent of students in Oregon graduate from high school, and fewer than 30 percent of graduates attend college. Recent reports rank Oregon fourth to last in the country for graduation rates. The devastating consequences of this unmet student potential in Oregon can be felt in many ways, from a high prison population to a weakened workforce to a slow economic recovery.

These outcomes result from a disadvantage that begins at birth: Children from low-income families are starting school behind. It then becomes harder, more expensive and less effective to close this gap in later years.

The challenges Oregon districts, schools and families face are complex, but the solution is clear. We need an education system that begins early with support for children and families, and follows them up through high school graduation.

Motivated by the conviction to close the achievement gap and ensure kids are meeting critical academic benchmarks, the David Douglas School District and the Children's Institute have embarked on an innovative initiative, called Early Works.

“Early Works is a game-changer. We’re already seeing the ripple effects. Superintendents from across the state are asking how they can get started.”

Don Grotting, Superintendent
David Douglas School District

Together we are building a model for education at Earl Boyles Elementary School. Early Works will cost-effectively demonstrate how integrating the early years with the early grades can improve student outcomes. The model will serve as a learning laboratory for policymakers and education stakeholders, so that the lessons learned can inform similar efforts. The early learning wing at Earl Boyles has been designed as a public-private partnership that connects parent and community engagement, health, education and social services.

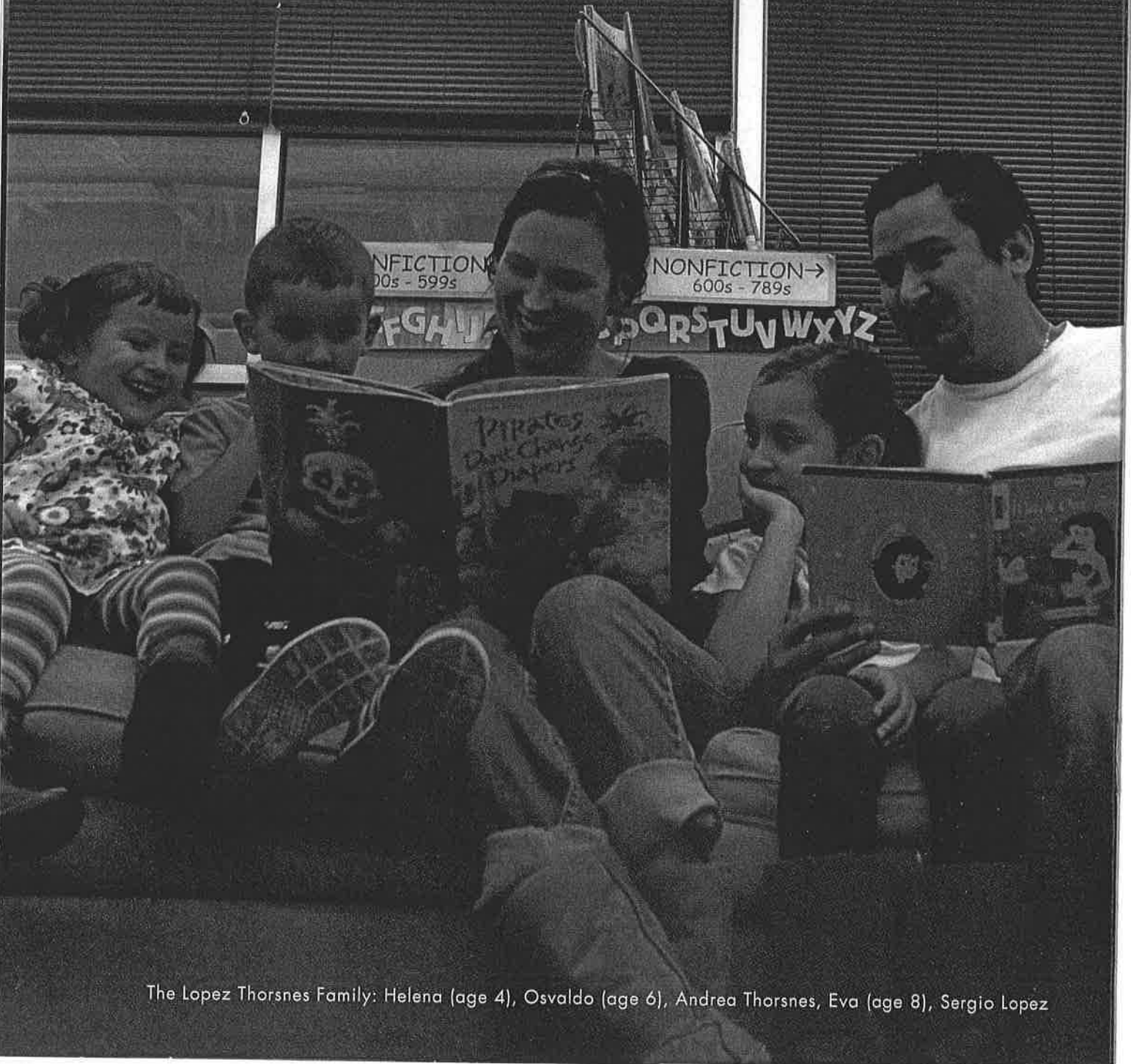
The majority of funding for the \$7 million wing will come from public sources, including \$3.5 million from a general obligation bond passed with overwhelming community support in May 2012. This commitment to a financially sustainable funding structure will ensure the early learning wing will serve as a scalable model for other districts interested in bridging early childhood to the primary grades.

Early Works is our chance to transform the education paradigm. Please join our efforts in creating a new starting line for education. It's about the future – for our children and for Oregon – and we all have a stake in it.



“The preschool at Earl Boyles was a dream come true; I felt lucky my daughter got in. It’s so important that all kids get the same chance as my daughter.”

Andrea Thorsnes, Earl Boyles Parent



The Lopez Thorsnes Family: Helena (age 4), Osvaldo (age 6), Andrea Thorsnes, Eva (age 8), Sergio Lopez

EARL BOYLES

a community in need

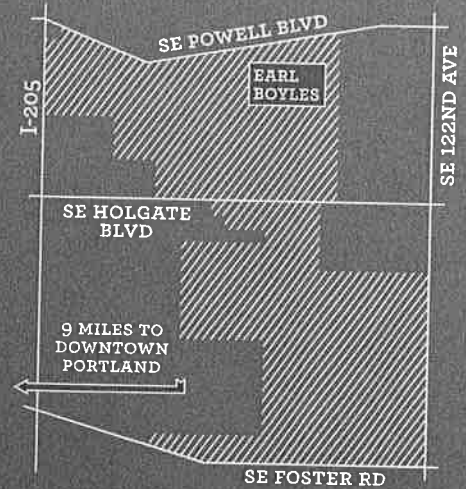
Andrea is proud of her children, her school and her community but recognizes hers is one of the fortunate Earl Boyles families. Her youngest child, Helena, age 4, was enrolled in the newly integrated public preschool. Andrea has seen amazing changes in her daughter's development, and recognizes that Helena will be better prepared for kindergarten than her siblings were. The unfortunate reality is that the majority of Helena's peers will not have this advantage.

Located in the David Douglas School District, Multnomah County's highest-need district, the school catchment area has few high-quality early learning programs, limited resources for parent education classes, and insufficient space for existing community programs. Earl Boyles is a designated Multnomah County SUN Community School, ensuring services are provided to school-age children and their families. Yet, service providers for families with children birth to age 5 are dispersed and disconnected from the school.

Despite the challenges, Earl Boyles is ideal for seeding an innovative education initiative, because it has the critical components for success. It has parents who have high expectations for their children, and visionary leaders who are committed to improving student outcomes.

The combined impact of dedicated leadership and community engagement was clearly demonstrated by the overwhelming support of a general obligation bond in May 2012 that designated \$3.5 million toward an early learning wing at Earl Boyles. The bond covers half the cost of the new wing, which will establish the school as a hub for the community by providing early learning programs, health linkages and social services.

Earl Boyles Elementary School Catchment Area



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

More than **80%** of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

40% of children live in poverty – almost double the overall rate in Multnomah County.

Unemployment is at **12%** – significantly higher than both the national and state averages.

24% of adult residents have not completed high school – double the overall rate in Multnomah County.

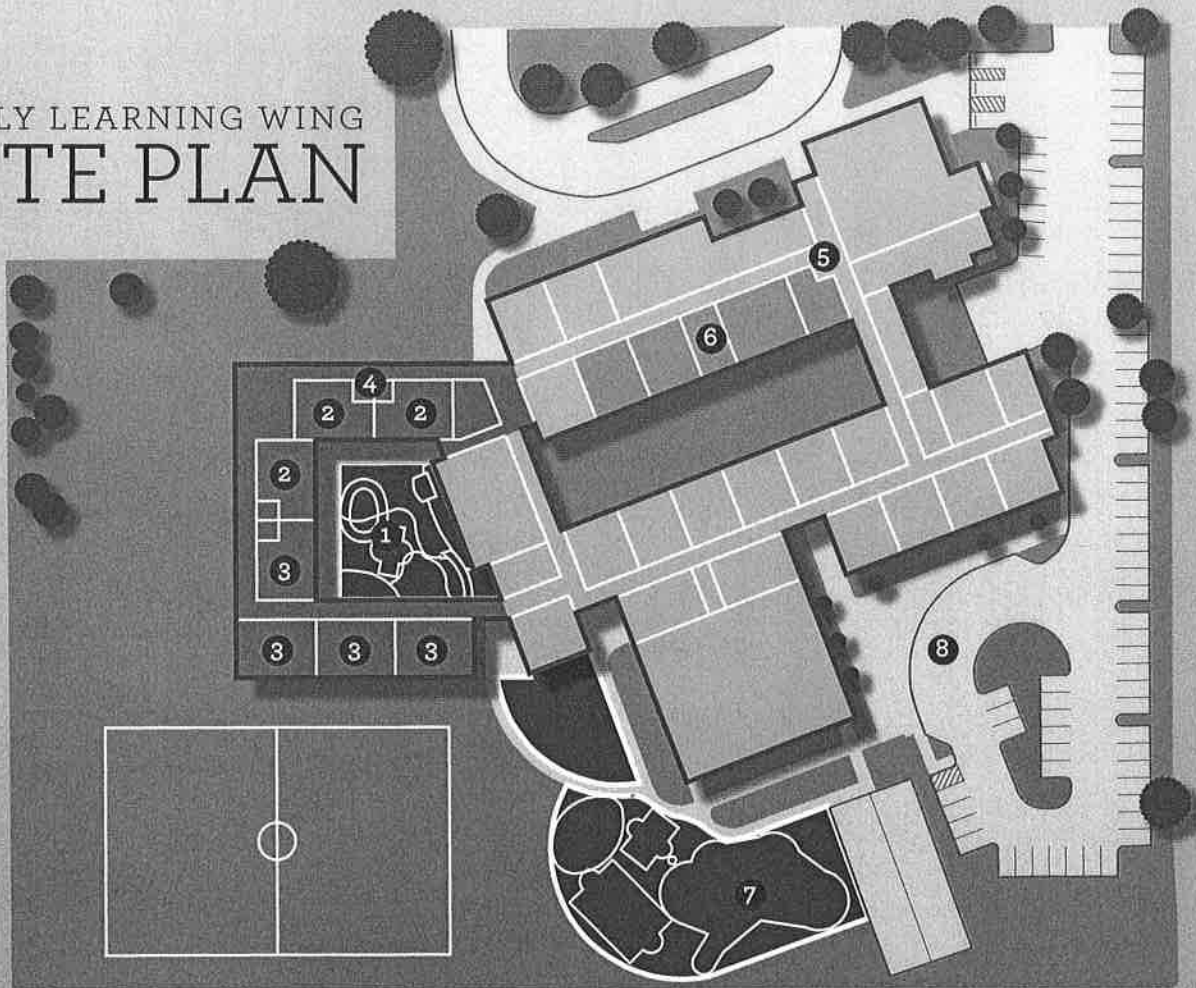
The median household income is **\$29,457**, compared to \$49,049 in the rest of Multnomah County.

68% of children have never been in any preschool or formal child care arrangement prior to kindergarten.

49% of Earl Boyles students do not meet third grade reading benchmarks. (The average is 30% statewide.)

53% do not meet third grade math benchmarks. (The average is 36% statewide.)

EARLY LEARNING WING SITE PLAN



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

■ NEW CONSTRUCTION - 14,800 SQUARE FEET

■ RENOVATION AREA - 5,500 SQUARE FEET

■ EXISTING SCHOOL

1 OUTDOOR PLAY COURTYARD

2 3 NEW PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS

3 4 NEW KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

4 OBSERVATION ROOMS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5 COMMUNITY ENTRANCE / GATHERING SPACE

6 THE HUB:

- COMMUNITY PARTNER SPACE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
- PARENT- AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED SPACE FOR ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING
- PARENT-CHILD PLAYGROUP ROOM

7 K-5 PLAYGROUND

8 NEW DROP-OFF / TURNAROUND

THE FACILITY

one school, one culture

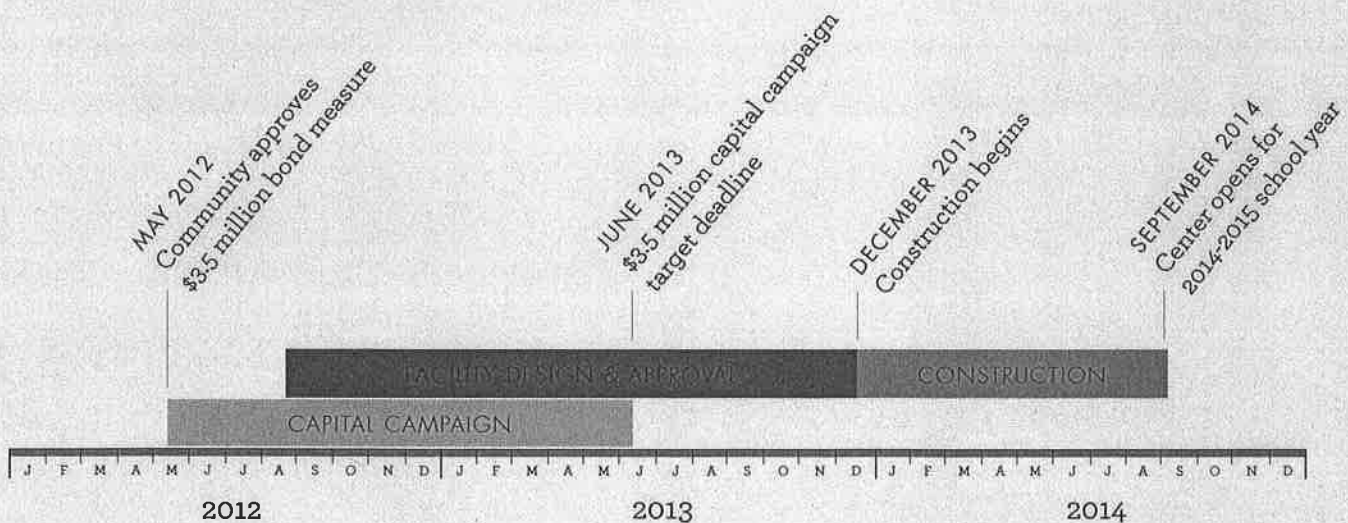


The David Douglas School District made the bold decision to build an early learning wing at Earl Boyles. The district knows that developing an early learning system that will deliver results requires the physical space to support the key components proven to close the achievement gap. Yet Earl Boyles, like many schools, is at capacity.

The shared vision is to create meaningful change for children and families. To do so means more than simply adding a preschool to the current building. It means a change in infrastructure to establish one school, one culture – to bridge the early years to the early grades.

The early learning wing at Earl Boyles, which includes 14,800 square feet of new construction and 5,500 square feet of remodeled space, will connect a full range of services for children, families and the community. It will anchor the school as a vital community resource, and ensure that the path to success begins at birth.

PROJECT TIMELINE





JOIN US

*and help build a new model
of education in Oregon*

EARLY WORKS PARTNERS

Mount Hood Community College Head Start

Multnomah Education Service District

Multnomah County SUN Service System

Metropolitan Family Services

Portland State University, School of Social Work: Center for
Improvement of Child and Family Services

Multnomah County Library

Children's Book Bank

Portland Reading Foundation

SMART



Children's
Institute

For more information contact:
Dan McCue, Communications Director
David Douglas School District
503-261-8229
early-works.org/capital-campaign

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Annette Mattson, Co-Chair
MEMBER, DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL BOARD

Ken Thrasher, Co-Chair
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Don Grotting
SUPERINTENDENT
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Tony Palermini, Ed.D.
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Susan Walsh
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
THE CAMPBELL FOUNDATION

Gary Withers
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN TEAM

Boora Architects ARCHITECT / INTERIOR DESIGN

Louis Torelli EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSULTANT

Fortis Construction

Cornerstone Management Group