

A COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Harnessing DC's Early Development Instrument Data

We have the opportunity to harness new early childhood data and create more prosperous community conditions for young children and families in DC. Outcomes from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) can help guide and inform citywide and neighborhood-level conversations on the resources, programs, and policies that will help ensure all of our children thrive in school and in life.



WHAT IS THE EDI?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is an internationally recognized tool that provides a holistic, citywide snapshot of young children's health, development, and school readiness in five key areas, known as domains:



Physical Health & Well-being



Social Competence



Emotional Maturity



Language & Cognitive Development



Communications Skills & General Knowledge

Through these domains, the EDI provides a citywide lens for childhood development that helps us better understand where our children are on track, as well as where they are vulnerable.

In Washington, DC, the tool uncovers the proportion of our 4-year-old children who are vulnerable in any of the measured domains by presenting a snapshot of data at the neighborhood cluster level. In 2016, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), in partnership with the Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities at UCLA, administered the EDI to more than 4,600 students in 116 DC schools and community-based organizations. Teachers at participating locations completed observational assessments of pre-kindergarten 4-year-old students to measure how they fared in each domain, as well as in 16 subdomains.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR DC?

The EDI will help inform place-based efforts in DC to ensure the healthy development of all of our young children, regardless of zip code. The outcomes allow us to:

- **Look back to understand how well the community can more holistically support the development of DC children**
- **Look forward to address the needs of incoming kindergarteners as they move through school**

Each of us has a role to play in ensuring our children are on track for school and life. With the EDI data, we have the opportunity to help our community plan for the right supports and resources that will position all DC children for success.



WHAT DID WE FIND IN DC?

Of the more than **4,600 children measured**, the EDI results reveal that in all but one EDI domain, most children are developmentally on track. In addition, the EDI found greater citywide strengths in social competence than the national average.

1 in 4 DC children is starting school vulnerable in one or more areas that are critical to his or her healthy development.

The data highlighted inequities across neighborhoods in the proportion of children vulnerable in one or more of the listed domains.

The full set of EDI maps and data are available for viewing at RaiseDC.org/OurChildren.



HOW CAN WE USE THE RESULTS?

The EDI results challenge us to further understand the roles of place, neighborhoods, and supports for DC's youngest children and their families.

How can we harness the data to change community conditions for children and families to be more equitable?

Cities around the world – from Vancouver, British Columbia, to San Antonio, Texas – have used the EDI results to shine a spotlight on equity and early childhood development and have informed policy and practice changes, from such things as literacy programs to systems-wide change.

Raise DC and OSSE have launched [Our Children, Our Community, Our Change](#) – a community engagement partnership that promotes citywide conversations around the EDI and provides tools and next steps for interested community members to apply this data to drive action.

By developing a shared understanding of where vulnerabilities exist, we can begin to create shared responsibility for constructing community conditions that allow all DC children to thrive.



HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

To learn more about the EDI results or lead your own community conversation about this powerful snapshot of early childhood development, email ourchildren@raisedc.org or visit RaiseDC.org/OurChildren.

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