

Project 5: Evaluation of the Implementation of Partnerships for an Innovative Early Learning Center

Funder: The Primrose Schools Children's Foundation (Contact: Kristin Bernhard)

Advisor: Katie Drummond

I. Purpose The Primrose Schools Children's Foundation (the Foundation) is seeking a researcher to conduct interviews with key stakeholders and partners, and to develop a white paper that synthesizes the process and lessons learned from launching the West Lakes Early Learning Center in Orlando, Florida in 2020 and an executive summary for internal and external use. The white paper should not only tell the story of how the West Lakes Early Learning Center came to be, but document the process and implementation of the partnerships that led to the launch of the Center to inform replication, particularly the role of Primrose Schools in

- 1) advising on the development, construction, and outfitting of the Center,
- 2) ongoing business and operational advice and guidance in support of the Center, and
- 3) implementation of Balanced Learning® in the Center. The documents will serve as a resource for guiding the Foundation's future initiatives in early childhood education and to inform new partners interested in replication of the model.

II. Background The Primrose Schools Children's Foundation®, the charitable arm of Primrose Schools, is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to forge a path that leads to a brighter future for ALL children, especially those who are underserved. The Foundation combines funding from Primrose schools and the Primrose Schools national support center to make an impact locally, regionally and nationally through partnerships to improve early childhood education, health and family well-being. The Primrose Schools Children's Foundation has contributed more than \$5 million to national charities and child-focused organizations since its inception in 2003. In partnership with AdventHealth, the Bainum Family Foundation, Lift Orlando and Purpose-Built Communities, Primrose Schools helped launch the West Lakes Early Learning Center in Orlando, Florida, in 2020. An innovative, scholarship-based early education and care center for underserved families, the West Lakes Early Learning Center provides high-quality early education as well as comprehensive health, wellness and social services to children and families. Primrose Schools continues to provide strategic and tactical operational support to West Lakes Early Learning Center at no cost, including supporting their implementation of Balanced Learning®. Since its inception, the ELC has graduated more than 125 children Kindergarten-ready, all at no cost to their families.

III. Scope of Work The researcher will:

1. Develop a work plan in collaboration with the Primrose Schools Children's Foundation.
2. Conduct interviews with approximately 12-15 partners and stakeholders, including non-profit leaders, health system leaders, educators, Primrose Schools team members, and community members.
3. Analyze qualitative data obtained from the interviews.
4. Review relevant literature on implementation science and previous writings, agreements, videos, and studies on the West Lakes Early Learning Center.
5. Draft a comprehensive white paper summarizing findings, including key themes, actionable recommendations, and best practices.
6. Draft a comprehensive executive summary to be used externally.
7. Provide progress updates and incorporate feedback.

8. Present the draft product to the Foundation Board of Directors.

9. Deliver the final white paper and executive summary.

IV. Deliverables

1. Work plan and interview guide.

2. Raw and analyzed data from interviews (if applicable).

3. Draft white paper and executive summary for review.

4. Final white paper and executive summary incorporating feedback.

5. Provide a virtual presentation (not to exceed 30 minutes) to the Foundation Board of Directors on findings.