

# Soar in 4

**ALICE** – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – these are hardworking, and yet struggling residents who have little or no savings and are one emergency from falling into poverty.

**43%** of Manatee County households are below the **ALICE** Threshold (Struggling households Poverty + ALICE)

**30%** households ALICE

**13%** of Manatee County households in poverty

**Soar in 4** is Manatee County's movement to ensure all 4 year olds and their families have the opportunities and support they need for success in preschool, school and beyond. We are transforming neighborhoods through conversations and leveraging community resources to create generational change, educational success and economic stability.

**The 2017 – 2018 Soar in 4 Program** served 3 high need school zones/neighborhoods, *Ballard, Rogers Garden Bullock and Sea Breeze* and plans to expand to *Blackburn, Bayshore, and Oneco* for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Soar in 4 will serve all of Manatee County's Title I elementary school neighborhoods by 2022.

**Soar in 4** has played a unique and important role in advancing early childhood and school readiness in Manatee—with demonstrated successes in engaging parents, improving quality of pre-K education, and enhancing the availability of countywide child development data.

## 2017– 2018 Soar in 4 By the Numbers

**1** Early Learning Community Task Force: A collaborative partnership was formed to ensure Manatee County's early learning community works together to provide all children, regardless of what zip code they live in, an equal opportunity at success by implementing a continuum of high-quality early learning services. This leadership board of partnering agencies and other key stakeholders met regularly to create and implement an aligned neighborhood support network for families and caregivers.

**109** Families attended the Transition to Kindergarten Neighborhood Nights at the South Florida Museum: Early learning providers in the 3 Soar in 4 neighborhoods collaborated to support their rising kindergarten students. The Early Learning Coalition, Manatee County Schools and Head Start collaborated to create meaningful and intentional activities to demonstrate to the families how to use the materials in the readiness bags. All of the activities were play based and interactive. Each night teachers demonstrated how each item in the bag should be used to practice essential kindergarten readiness skills.

**305** early learning students received free, extended day preschool

**14** Classrooms participated in Soar in 4

**15, 250 phone calls** were made to families from a teacher, a paraprofessional, or a social worker throughout the summer and year to discuss Soar in 4 events, activities and/or materials.

**100%** of Soar in 4 children qualify for free and/or reduced lunch.

**420** community volunteers engaged in our key efforts toward school readiness for Manatee's children.

**620** times parents/grandparents/ guardians participated in goal setting.

**950** children and families received literacy materials and resources.

In practice, Soar in 4 brought critical resources to **14** classrooms, which included:

- + Instructional materials and support to implement the language, literacy and mathematics curricula (Unit materials, FLY Kits, and Footsteps2Brilliance online literacy program) into the classroom and home;
- + Professional development for our teachers and paraprofessionals;
- + Bi-monthly, one-on-one coaching focused on the language, literacy and mathematics curricula to translate knowledge into practice in the classroom; and
- + Supplements for teachers' and paraprofessionals.

**98%** of Soar in 4 children demonstrated progress toward school readiness skills for their age as measured by VPK assessment (AP1, AP2, and AP3).

**96%** of parents/grandparents/guardians reported life skills improvement in relationships with family and friends, children, and knowledge of support resources; education and employment, health and medical care, and mental health/substance abuse.

**100%** of parents/grandparents/guardians reported personal progress/growth in both short and long term goals as evidenced in their Family Support Plan and personal coaching sessions.

**100%** of parent participants increased knowledge of parenting topics that correlate with protective factors and encourage positive child development.

**100%** of parents of a special needs child reported a decrease in feelings of isolation from participation in Soar in 4 events.

**13** Soar in 4 family nights and **1** family field trip

**6** paraprofessionals are participating in the TOPPs program – a collaboration with the State College of Florida to grow our paraprofessionals to become early learning teachers.

# VPK Assessment Data

## Print Knowledge

### Non-Title I –

VPK AP1 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 31% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 91% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 12% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 89% Meeting and Exceeding

### Non- Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 6% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 87% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 FLY Kits –

VPK AP1 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 13% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Print Knowledge Assessment data – 92% Meeting and Exceeding

## Phonological Awareness

### Non-Title I –

VPK AP1 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 47% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 93% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Phonological Awareness e Assessment data – 19% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 87% Meeting and Exceeding

### Non- Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 19% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 89% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 FLY Kits –

VPK AP1 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 22% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Phonological Awareness Assessment data – 92% Meeting and Exceeding

## Mathematics

### Non-Title I –

VPK AP1 Mathematics Assessment data – 32% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Mathematics Assessment data – 94% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Mathematics Assessment data – 13% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Mathematics Assessment data – 84% Meeting and Exceeding

### Non- Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Mathematics Assessment data – 10% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Mathematics Assessment data – 86% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 FLY Kits –

VPK AP1 Mathematics Assessment data – 17% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Mathematics Assessment data – 90% Meeting and Exceeding

## Oral Language and Vocabulary

### Non-Title I –

VPK AP1 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 65% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 95% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 33% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 88% Meeting and Exceeding

### Non- Soar In 4 Title I school –

VPK AP1 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 29% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 91% Meeting and Exceeding

### Soar In 4 FLY Kits –

VPK AP1 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 43% Meeting and Exceeding

VPK AP3 Oral Language and Vocabulary Assessment data – 93% Meeting and Exceeding

# **Family responses to 2018 Summer Soar In 4**

**100%** of the Soar in 4 parents reported the following

- New understanding of child development,
- New ways of interacting with their children,
- Increasing self-confidence
- Increased awareness of resources available to families.

**180** families received a phone call from a teacher, paraprofessional, or social worker.

**325** family members ventured down to the downtown area for the first summer Soar In 4 event.

**60** Pre-K and Kindergarten students came to play and learn. These students participated in a pre-math assessment.

**100%** of the families polled reported that they all enjoyed the Soar In 4 event.

**50%** of the families polled reported that they received a phone call about the program.

**50%** of the families reported that they received an email about the program.

When asked, ***“Did you learn a way to help your child be prepared for school?”***

One parent responded with *“Yes, I learned more about my child’s ability to solve problems and areas we can work on prior to school starting.”*

**30%** responded that they would work on number games at home and counting to 30.

**15%** responded that they would play the letter hunt game at home.

**45%** responded that they did not realize how important it is to play and talk with your child.