Altgeld-Riverdale Innovation Zone
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The Altgeld-Riverdale Innovation Zone

Altgeld-Riverdale was designated as an Early Childhood Innovation Zone (one of 11) by the Governor in the Spring of 2011.

The Altgeld community consists of:
- over 2000 families,
- half of whom are children or teenagers,
- over 70% of children live in poverty,
- a population that is 99% African American.

The Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition (The Coalition) is the lead organization for the Altgeld-Riverdale Innovation Zone.
The Altgeld–Riverdale Early Learning Coalition (The Coalition)

The Coalition's priority populations include:
- Children in poverty and deep poverty
- Children of Teen Parents
- Children with disabilities

There are 25 + Member Organizations:
- BPI is the lead organizer and facilitator
- Elementary Schools and Childcare centers
- Service Providers
- Local Health Clinic
- Public Library
- Faith-based organizations
- Resident Leadership
- CPS
- CHA
- CPD
- Property Management
- Local Nonprofits
Accomplishments

The Altgeld-Riverdale Parenting Program (ages 0–3)
- Doula/home visiting services – free to young mothers, ages 13–21 with children pre-birth to 3 years.

Prek–K Transitions Project (ages 3–6)
- A collaborative effort by all local pre-schools, child care centers and kindergartens, parents and children to ensure kindergarten success.

Pre-K Enrollment (ages 3–5)
- Regular enrollment campaigns among the Coalition member schools, centers, and the local health care provider and the CHA service provider.
Accomplishments

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Accomplishments contd.

Kids Science Lab (ages 6–8)
- Free monthly science workshops for children ages 6–8 at an innovative and creative science laboratory.

Camp Fit Kids (ages 4–12)
- A free full day summer camp for children ages 4–12.

The Community Beat
- Community based website to help coordinate programs among schools and service providers.
Kids Science Labs
Program for Aldridge Students

DID YOU KNOW?
Now, Aldridge Students Ages 6-8 who are active in Youth Guidance after school programs can join a new, fun science program at Kids Science Labs (1801 S. Indiana) FOR FREE.

At Kids Science Labs children will learn scientific principles in an exciting environment, using their creativity to conduct experiments and to learn more about things like:

Why is the sky blue?
Why do I have to put milk in the refrigerator?
How does the TV work?

WHEN: 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Bus departs at 3:30pm from Aldridge Elementary (630 E. 131st Street)

Jan. 12  Feb. 9  Mar. 8  Apr. 12

A great opportunity to have fun and learn science at the same time. Join us!
Attending is easy! Sign one permission slip for the whole year!

Early Learning Coalition

Kids Science Labs is proudly sponsored by The Atglen-Rivendale Early Learning Coalition and Youth Guidance.
Accomplishments contd.

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**The Community Beat**
- Community based website to help coordinate programs among schools and service providers.
Register today!

CAMP FIT KIDS

BE A SUMMERTIME SUPERHERO

FREE Summer Camp for Pre-K through 6th Graders

Carver Elementary School
Monday - Friday | 9am - 5pm
June 29 - August 21

For more info contact Patrice Boswell
pboswell@youth-guidance.org | 312.730.2190
Challenges

- Parents' Misconceptions about Pre-K

- Lack of knowledge of Pre-K Importance

- Confusing Enrollment Process
Innovation Zone Strategies

1. Enrollment Pipeline:
   Collaborating with local service providers with pre-existing education referral networks to distribute early childhood enrollment information.

2. Pre-K Kids + Parent Night:
   Hosting “Pre-K Kids' + Parent Night” in Altgeld where parents and children can have fun and learn about Pre-K programs.

3. Educational Tour Day:
   A family "open house" at each Pre-K program in Altgeld to build interest, understanding and enrollment.
Strategy 1 - Enrollment Pipeline

Four Altgeld-Riverdale community partners will provide Pre-K information to parents/caregivers and advice to early learning centers.

- TCA Health
- Youth Guidance
- Riverside Village
- Chicago Public Library - Altgeld Branch
Strategy 2 - Pre-K Kids + Parent Night!

Monday, March 14, 2016
Chicago International Charter School Lloyd Bond
4:30 – 6:30

- All of the Early Learning Centers and some community partners in Altgeld will be involved and present at the event.
- There will be age appropriate Pre-K activities, some opportunities for on the spot enrollment and parents will have a chance to ask questions about the process of enrollment.
Continuous Learning Cycles

Strategy I - Enrollment Pipeline
- Worked with a variety of partners before finding four that could implement the strategy quickly.

Strategy II - Pre-K Kids + Parent Night
- Through interactions with teachers, we found that transportation was a barrier to attendance for parents. We were able to arrange transportation for the event.
Altgeld-Riverdale Innovation Zone Progress

Pre-K Enrollment:
- 5 of the 6 early learning centers have enrollment in excess of 80%
- 2 strategies in process with cooperation from community stakeholders
- Hiring of a Parent Engagement Coach
- Our Parent Engagement Coach is currently being trained in Tiny Habits, which is a method to teach people how to create habits, quickly and easily using the power of environment and baby steps.

Participating Early Learning Partners include:
- W.E.B Dubois Elementary School
- Golden Gate Day Care Center
- Carver Primary School
- CYC - Gautreaux
- Ira F. Aldridge Elementary School
- Centers For New Horizons
Moving Forward

1) Enrolling and serving more very high need children in high quality early learning and development programs;

2) Increasing quality improvement in early learning programs; and,

3) Assisting the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) to inform the success of their work, through the collection of data.
Altgeld-Riverdale Innovation Zone