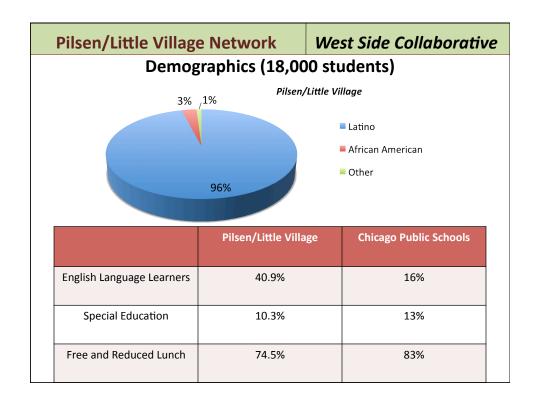
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The PreK-3rd Experience An Examination at the School Level



Erikson Institute February 6, 2012





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The Crisis

-In the nation's lowest performing schools, only <u>one in</u> **three** children learn to read by the third grade. Those who don't are **four times** as likely than peers to leave high school without a diploma.- Annie E. Casey Foundation

-Chicago's Hispanic dropout rate hovers around **40 percent**. Hispanic dropouts are having a drastic economic impact on the city. In 2008, 9,250 Latinos dropped out of school. If that number were cut in half, the city would benefit from \$57.5 million in increased earnings and \$40.1 million in increased spending

-Alliance for Excellent Education (July 2010)



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What Are the Common Core State Standards?

★ "Common Core State Standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs."

(NGA & CCSSO, 2010)



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- The new standards support improved curriculum and instruction due to increased:
 - FOCUS, via critical areas at each grade level
 - COHERENCE, through carefully developed connections within and across grades
 - CLARITY, with precisely worded standards that cannot be treated as a checklist
 - RIGOR, including a focus on College and Career Readiness and Standards for Mathematical Practice throughout Pre-K-12



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Common Core Standards:

An opportunity to Bring Coherence to the PreK-3rd grade experience

- 1. Reading instruction happens throughout the school day, across grade levels and content areas
- 2. Meeting standards requires comprehensive, inquiry-based pedagogy, built on prior learning
- 3. Language learning is purposeful and is anchored in big ideas and corresponding texts
- 4. Student tasks are consistently text dependent
- 5. Debate and dialogue are central to content-learning
- 6. Writing- ability to write logical arguments based on substantive claims, sound reasoning and relevant evidence (opinion at early grades)
- 7. Performance assessment: multi-step process that requires construction and articulation of student thinking



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C	ase Study- <i>Bo</i>	ston Pu	blic Scl	nools	
	3 rd Graders who attended BPS K1 % Prof / Adv.	3 rd Graders who did not attended K1 - % Prof / Adv.		% Point Difference b/w 3 rd graders who attended K1 vs. those who did not	
All Students	43.0%	33	3.8%		9
F/R Lunch	37.4%	28.8%		9	
Asian	63.0%	44	1.9%	18	
Black	34.2%	27	.3%	7	
Hispanic	35.1%	30).5%		5
White	68.5%	62	2.7%		5
	rof/Adv on Grad Students by Rad		-		■ Black ■ White
0.0%					

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Implications for Practitioners

- Embrace the implementation of Common Core Standards as an opportunity to connect PreK-3 education
- Full day, robust early childhood programming matters!
- A need for a better nexus between early childhood and primary teaching
- Schools must "own" their preschool programs
- Principals must be informed leaders of early childhood education
- Commitment to maintaining high expectations and strong socio-emotional supports (these are not mutually exclusive)
- Parent involvement is a critical thru line PreK-3.

