

Early Learning Matters

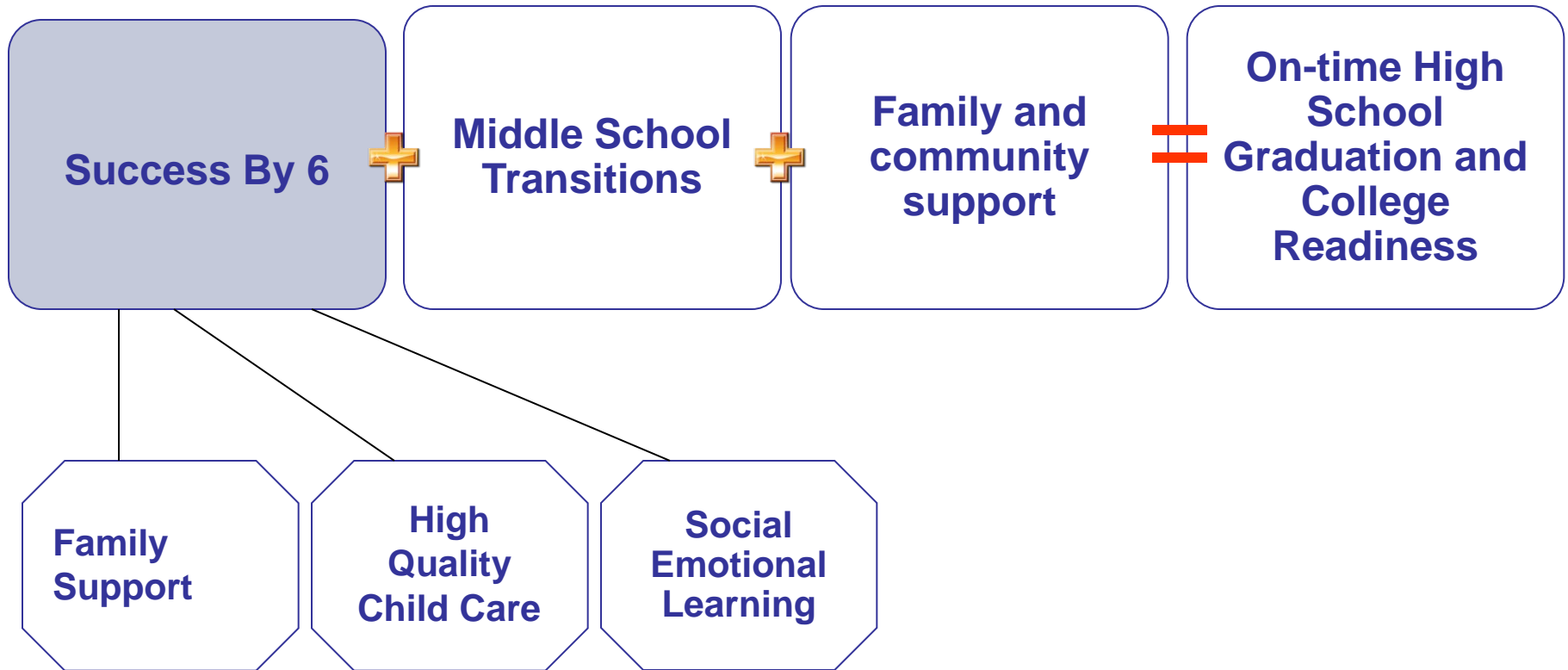
CAN Board Meeting
May 14, 2010

Success By 6



United Way Capital Area Education Plan

Children and youth are happy, healthy, and prepared for success in school and life





Did You Know?

- 46% of America's kindergarteners are significantly behind at school entry.
- In Central Texas, nearly 50% of kindergarteners are not “school ready” according to a new assessment developed by E3.
- Children from low-wage families are most at risk, typically 1-2 years behind in language and cognitive development.



The Achievement Gap...

- Starts before school does and grows over time.
- Of 50 children who are having trouble learning to read in kindergarten, 44 of them will still have trouble in 3rd grade.
- **Children without reading skills by 3rd grade are unlikely to graduate.**



Travis County

- Over 17,000 children under the age of 5 living at or below 100% federal poverty level
- Nearly 20,000 children under the age of 5 between 100% and 200% poverty level
- Slightly more than half of children in poverty are living in households with a single parent
- Slightly less than half of children in poverty have parents who are foreign-born

Total of 37,000 vulnerable young children – approximately 10,500 of whom are receiving services.





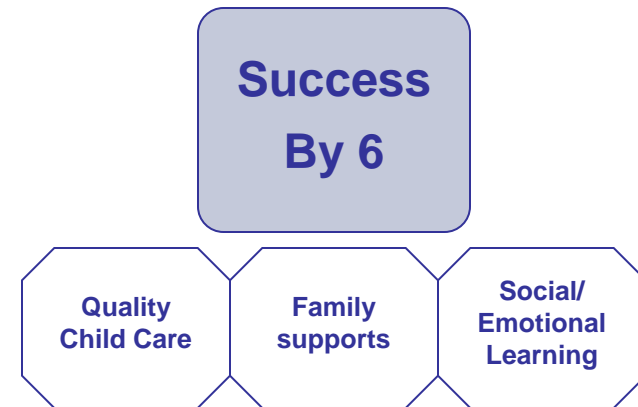
What is the need?

- Proven interventions with long-term results range in cost from \$2,000 – \$10,000 per child annually.
- Conservatively, millions of dollars would be needed to serve our most vulnerable citizens.



Success by 6 Community Investments

- **Quality Child Care [\$395,000]**
 - Direct child care supplements
 - Mentoring
- **Family Support [\$470,000]**
 - Home visiting
 - Parent education
 - Play & learn
- **Social/Emotional Learning [\$75,000]**
 - Mental health consultation to child care centers





What more needs to be done?

Support Quality Early Childhood Education in Child Care Centers

- Better qualified and compensated workforce
- Funding for improvements to facilities
- Support for Texas Rising Star and NAEYC Accreditation
- Inclusion of child care in city planning efforts – e.g. Transit-Oriented Developments



What more needs to be done?

Support families with young children

- Family-friendly child care subsidy policies
- Funding for home visiting and parent education with vulnerable families
- Include early learning activities in Community Centers



Thank you