



Collaborative for Colchester's Children

HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Notable News!

- Support from Town of Colchester increased to \$25,000
- BOE increased support for our early intervention efforts to \$35,000
- Continuation of State funds match from Discovery Grant of \$16,228
- Bookmobile continued to travel to area programs during Summer of 2016
- Programming greatly expanded– 5 types of Play and Learn groups offered
- C3 Family programming and workshops nearly doubled our reach from serving 54 unique families to 105 family units!!
- People Empowering People Offered to 2nd Cohort
- Circle of Security returned with Head Start partnership

Annual Report July 2016– June 2017

C3 Provides More Programming Than Ever Before

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children had its busiest programming year ever in 2016-17. Though this is C3's fifth year offering Play and Learn groups, it was by far our busiest. In our first year 2012-13, we piloted the idea of Play and Learn groups where a parent and child attend together with just 17 sessions in the Spring. Parents responded favorably and so we increased the number of sessions and the types of classes offered. It became clear in the Fall of 2016 that we were still not offering enough sessions to meet the demand for these classes. Our first registration left us with nearly as many on the wait list as we had enrolled. So, we expanded our offerings to include 5 unique types of groups– Parent and Child Yoga, Music with Mommy (or Daddy) and Me, Joyful Noises, Sign and Play, and

Power Play. With over 127 sessions across a series of 15 classes, we had lots of options for young families.

In addition to the Play and Learn Groups we also offered 5 one or two night parent education workshops and 3 parent education series that were multi-week long classes including Collaborative Problem Solving, Circle of Security and People Empowering People (PEP). We partnered with Youth and Social Services as well as TVCCA Head Start to reduce costs, expand each organization's reach, and increase attendance.

Additionally, C3 co-sponsored a screening of the documentary Resilience which kick-started our look at chronic stress in childhood and its long-lasting impact on the brain– impacting behavior, academic success, mental health, and physical health.

The Power of Partnerships

The Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust, Cragin Memorial Library and C3 created a new **StoryWalk®** committee to provide an interesting and fun way for children and their adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors! Cathy Shea and Katherine Kosiba volunteered countless hours to attach laminated pages from a children's book to wooden stakes, which they installed along an outdoor path at the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands Park. Each page of the story was placed along the trail drawing you

ahead as you read the story. These temporary stations became quite worn from wind and weather even though they were changed seasonally. Thankfully, Jack Boyden stepped in and is creating a permanent **StoryWalk®** path as his Eagle Scout Project. He raised funds to purchase weatherproof stations that will be much more durable and far easier to change. The posts are already in and the upper portions of the stations will be installed soon. Thank you to all involved with this successful literacy project!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Kate Byroade
Board Chair

Staff

Cindy Praisner
Coordinator

Dawn LePage
Assistant to Coordinator

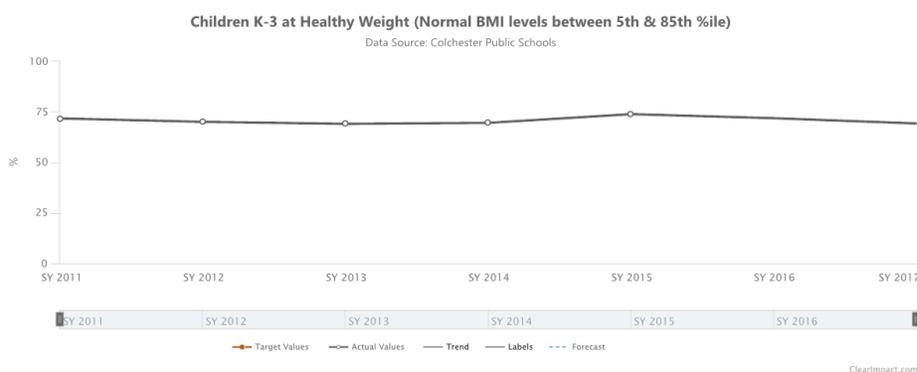
Tammy Stolzman, Program
Accountability Coordinator

We use the following indicators to see if we are getting results...

We want Colchester children to be healthy.

Did you know?

- We had tracked the percentage of Colchester women receiving at least adequate prenatal care as a way to monitor whether Colchester's youngest citizens are getting a healthy start. However, the Department of Public Health does not recommend its use as an indicator for prenatal care due to several issues with the quality of the data collection and reporting. Though we will no longer use this data, connecting with women in their childbearing years will remain a goal for C3.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children are considered to be at a healthy weight if they have normal Body Mass Index (BMI) levels (between the 5th and 85th percentile). The amount of Colchester children in grades K-3 considered at a healthy weight continues to be between 69 and 73% since Colchester Public Schools began calculating students' BMI in 2011.

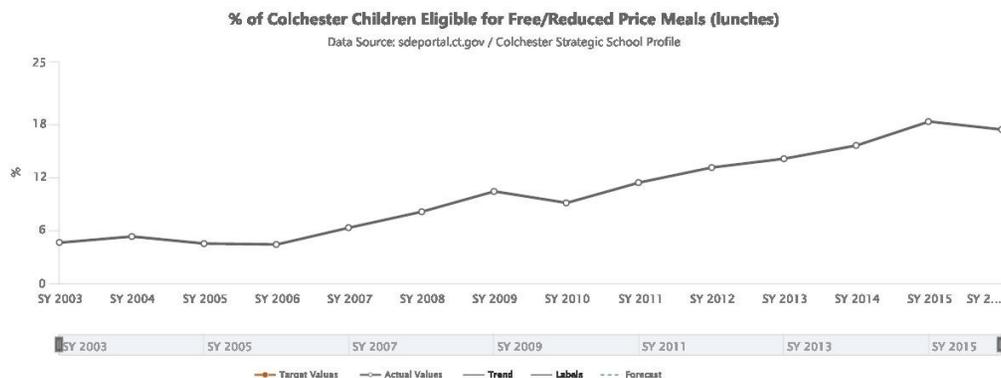


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We want Colchester children to be happy.

Did you know?

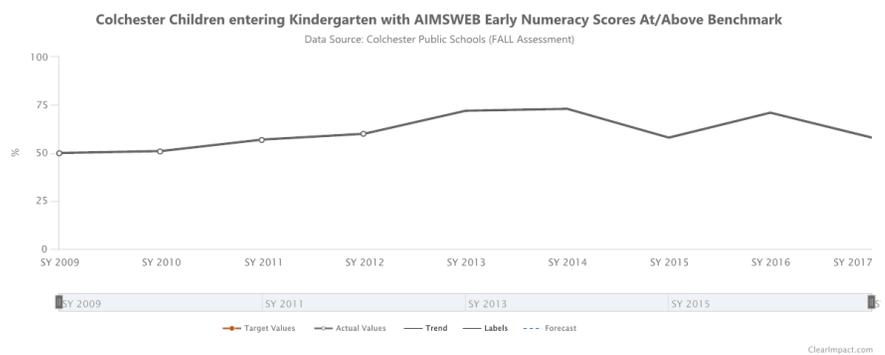
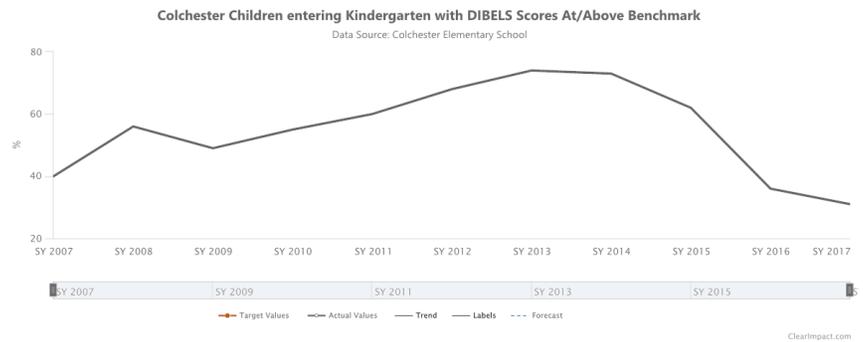
- Beginning in 2013 at CES and 2015 at JJIS the Behavior and Emotional Screening System (BESS) had been used to identify students that have an elevated or extremely elevated risk level for emotional and/or behavioral difficulties. The test specifically screens for behavioral and emotional strengths and weaknesses. This past year, CES chose to pilot a new instrument that may better capture student need and so no K-2 data is available for this year. 82% of grade 3 JJIS students scored at the normal risk level for this year compared to 81% and 86% respectively for 2015 and 2016. Slightly more students scored in the elevated risk range while the extremely elevated risk range remained at 5%.
- The number of children eligible for free and/or reduced lunch in Colchester continues to increase from 4.6% in 2003 to 17.4% in 2016. Eligibility for free and reduced lunch is one way to measure the local conditions for children in Colchester. Increasing economic difficulties in our community could be adding stress to the lives of our children.



We want Colchester children to be successful.

Did you know?

- Early reading and math skill levels have been shown in to be highly predictive of future success. Students at CES are measured using the AIMSweb to determine their initial math skills and the DIBELS to assess early literacy skills upon entry into kindergarten. C3 uses this data as a window into the exposure of Colchester's young children to early math and literacy concepts. Please note that the benchmark standards for the DIBELS assessment became more rigorous beginning in SY16. There is a subsequent drop in performance with the new standards. Interventionists work with any children that need additional support in developing skills.



We want a Collaborative that is effective and strong.

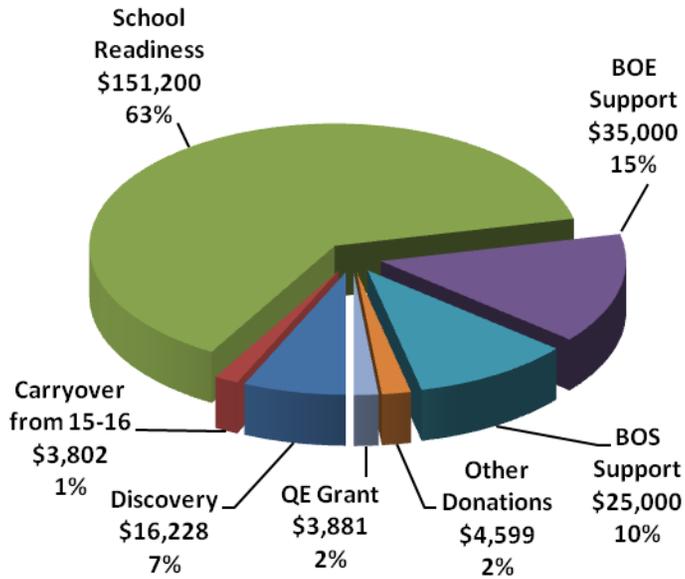
Did you know?

During 2016-17, our part-time staff and volunteer members accomplished the following:

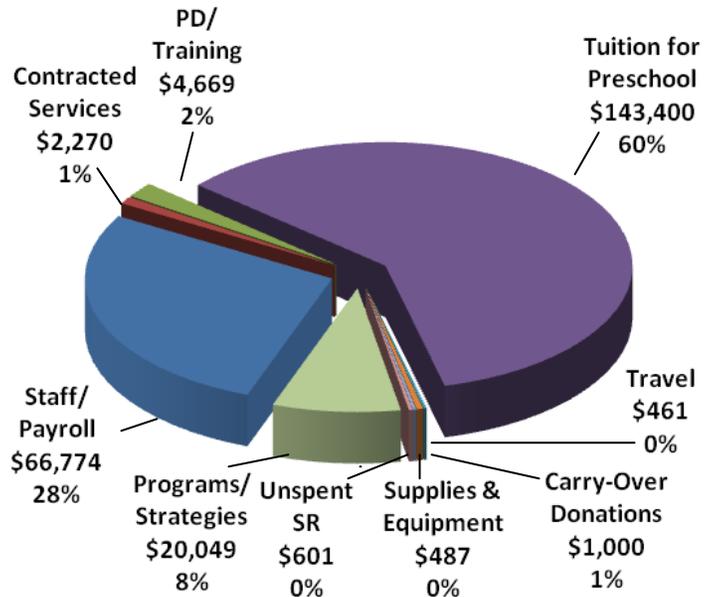
- Updated our organizational chart and by-laws to better reflect our practices, include all our members in decision-making, ensure accountability for our actions, and increase the voice of parents with young children. Specifically, major changes included the creation of a Parent Council, elimination of the Board of Partners model, removal of the Finance Committee, and the clarification of the roles and members of the Executive Committee.
- Continued to adapt to our changing financial picture as Discovery funding is in its last year.
- 28 C3 members representing Colchester's town government, school system, local organizations and businesses, and parents attended strategic meetings throughout the year.
- Continued to serve Colchester families with young children through 155 sessions of C3 Play and Learn Programs and Parenting Workshops!
- Katherine Kristoff, Bacon Academy Class of 2017, created a promotional video for C3 as her capstone project.
- C3 continued to reach out to the community through our website, facebook page, and twitter account.
- Subsidized tuition for 29 preschool spaces through our School Readiness grant.

Financial Information for 2016-2017

Monetary Revenues Total: \$239,710



Expenses Total: \$239,710



Thank you to our supporters and partners!



C.A.S.T.L.E.

Colchester Board of Education

Colchester Board of Selectmen

Colchester Lions Charities

Colchester MOM's Club

Cragin Memorial Library

Colchester Youth & Social Services

TVCCA

UCFS

William W. Backus Hospital

Private Donations Received in 2016-2017:

- MOMs Club \$1177
- Drop in and Shop Fundraiser hosted by Lularoe Leah, Inc. \$450
- Colchester Lions Club \$550

We need you! Contact Cindy Praisner at cpraisner@colchesterct.org to find out how you can help!

Visit our updated website online at: www.ColchesterC3.org

Like us on Facebook!



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