

# RUSSELL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Russell Springs, KY

Russell Springs Elementary

Grades Preschool - 5th

635 Students

44.7 Certified Staff

Rural Setting

Socioeconomic:

62.5% Free lunch

7.7% Reduced lunch

Ethnicity:

.3% African American

.9% Asian

10.6% Hispanic

86.9% White

\$7,198 per student spending



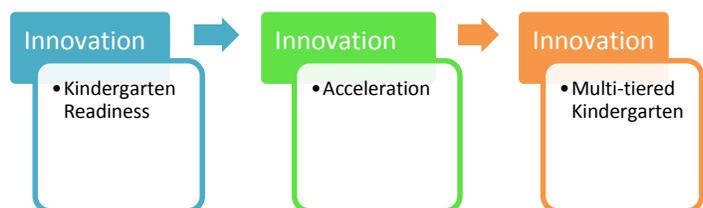
***Cradle to Career***

## Innovation Snapshot

### *Innovation Pathways*

*Russell Springs Elementary School will transform their approach to early childhood education through personalizing the kindergarten experiences through a Kindergarten Academy.*

## Key Elements



### kid-FRIENDLY Supports

- Data Retreat
- Community of Learners
- Community of Practice
- Cultural Proficiency Institute
- FRSYC Funds



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## Russell Springs Elementary School Innovation Snapshot Project “Cradle to Career”

Russell Springs Elementary School is inspired by the new state initiative Kentucky Rising which is part of the statewide strategic plan focused on a “cradle” to “career” model. Based on our needs assessment and our school wide personalized learning planning, we feel the first four goals of Kentucky Rising parallel with our school’s personalized Learning plan. The goals are as follows:

- Provide strong supports for children and their families BEFORE students even arrive at school
- Provide more resources for at-risk students than for others
- Develop world class, highly coherent instructional systems
- Create clear gateways for students through the system, set to global standards, with no dead ends

By 2017, Russell Springs Elementary School wants to be prepared to meet the needs of individual learners from day one of their Kindergarten experience. We want to be cognizant of each student’s strengths and weaknesses in order to meet them at their individual point of need from the very first day of school. A **multi-tiered** Kindergarten Academy will allow us to implement these personalized learning plans.

The Kindergarten Academy will consist of three unique classroom structures. One setting will be a Kindergarten Jumpstart class for those students who are struggling academically with the basic skills needed to be ready to learn in a traditional Kindergarten classroom. Another setting will offer varying levels of teaching standards and skills that are required with traditional Kindergarten curriculum. In this setting, teachers will be grouping and re-grouping both within their own classrooms as well as with other teachers, so that students are continually moving through the curriculum at a rate that ensures their individual learning needs are met. A third setting, a Kindergarten Plus classroom, will offer an accelerated curriculum for those students needing additional supports in social and academic development to better prepare them for first grade.

The Kindergarten Jumpstart idea to personalized learning was developed because of data received from the 2014-2015 Brigance Screener data results. This data shows us that 54.8% of our 2014-2015 incoming Kindergarten students were not Kindergarten ready. 115 students were screened and only 45.2% were considered Kindergarten ready. Additionally, the 2013-2014 Brigance Screener data showed us that 65.9% were not Kindergarten ready. School readiness for all children is critical to the success of students, and after two years of data, Russell Springs Elementary recognizes this as a growing concern. We want to reach out to our students early so that we will have the data we need to drive our instruction.

kid-FRIENDLY FRC funding will be used to help pay for registration, screening, parent education, and an advertisement on the local cable channel. Since screening will take place in the evening hours so that it is

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convenient for working parents, our Kindergarten teachers who will be screening students will be provided a stipend through district funding. Gift cards and other incentives will be provided for parents to bring their children to this event. Additionally, parents will receive and be oriented to a resource packet containing prekindergarten resources as a home/school partnership to assist in providing meaningful prekindergarten readiness learning experiences prior to the start of Kindergarten. Teachers will be available to parents when needed through phone conferences, e-mail and meetings during this important learning time. We will seek and utilize various funding sources to purchase research and evidence based materials and resources to enhance our Kindergarten Academy as we strive to reach all levels of learning.

We have already conducted a planning meeting with our Kindergarten teachers. Because they ARE the experts in their field, they are developing an in-house screener to identify those students not Kindergarten ready. In developing the NEW Kindergarten Jumpstart class, teachers are searching for meaningful, real life curriculum based on conceptual and foundational learning principles that afford students the prerequisites skills to achieve high levels of understanding and learning when faced with the rigorous Common Core Standards for the Kindergarten. The teachers are also developing the criteria for the Kindergarten Plus classroom to ensure learning experiences that accelerate and jump start students for first grade and ensure they gain important sustainable skills for higher level learning. We will be meeting again at the end of the month to finalize plans for our registration and screening. Additional next steps including timelines and supports will be developed at that time.

Lastly, we feel it important to note that this is a FIRST STEP in providing the most essential early intervention for long lasting success in learning. Planning for the future will include:

- 1) How do we maximize this same strategy to meet students at their point of need for the rest of their elementary school experience?
- 2) How do we ultimately jumpstart students' individual college and career ready goals based on their individual educational interest and needs?