Kindergarten Registration Process in Delaware

- **28 districts and charters** provide kindergarten to Delaware’s children.

- Districts/Charters provided **5 different months** for the start of kindergarten registration.

- There is **no common deadline** for kindergarten registration in Delaware.

- Most districts use **hard copies of registration paperwork**, which is then inputted into eSchool by office staff.

- There is an average of **7 forms with repetitive questions required** for kindergarten registration.
What Parents Say About The Process...

- **76%** of parents describe the kindergarten registration process in Delaware as **hard or extremely hard** to navigate.

- **98%** of families who completed the Spanish survey said kindergarten registration was **hard or extremely hard** to navigate.

- The following aspects of the kindergarten registration process were reported as the **most challenging**:
  - Understanding what was expected of me as a parent
  - Navigating the school choice process
  - Finding a school to register my child

- **33%** of the parents who completed the Spanish survey said the **most challenging** part of kindergarten registration was the language barrier.
What parents say about the school choice process...

- **72%** of parents described the school choice process as **hard or extremely hard** to navigate.

- **94%** of families who completed the Spanish survey reported **School Choice was hard or extremely hard to navigate**.

- **24%** of parents reported navigating the school choice process as the most challenging part of Kindergarten Registration.

Information Collected From Survey Conducted By The Delaware Readiness Teams During May and June of 2018
Current State: Process

2018-2019 School Year

- School Choice Deadline
- Teachers Hired for 2019-2020 School Year
- Kindergarten Registration Opens

2019-2020 School Year

- Start of School: Hundreds of Students Are Not Registered
- Sept. 30 Decision to Hire More Teachers and/or split classrooms

Timeline:

- Oct-Dec
- Jan-Mar
- Apr-Jul
- Aug-Sept
System Challenges

- Inefficient
- Hinders hiring full teacher staff
- Limits instructional time with highest-need children
- Choice participation is limited, especially among low-income, special education, and English Learner students
- Families start school without strong relationships/connections

Family Challenges

When surveyed, families asked for

- A common, easy to use website with much less redundant paperwork to fill out
- Better advertisements on when registration is taking place
- More information for families new to the school system
- Registration location(s) with running open hours outside of regular school operating hours
- More information on choice

Distribute Kindergarten Registration Information Folders to Families

Build Capacity of Early Learning Providers to Help Families Navigate Transition

Host 2019 – 2020 Kindergarten Academies

Host 2020 – 2021 Kindergarten Academies

Launch Event for the Kindergarten Registration in Delaware

Establish November as Kindergarten Registration Month in Delaware with information on School Choice

Host Local Registration Events throughout the Month of November

Establish December 15 as Kindergarten Registration Deadline