

RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FOSTERING AND PROMOTING
HEALTHY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, all Northwest Louisiana children should have the opportunity to succeed;

WHEREAS, kindergarten readiness affects a child's future opportunities and health;

WHEREAS, 59% of children in northwest Louisiana are not kindergarten ready;

WHEREAS, the major problems our region faces—crime, poor workforce development, and underperforming schools—can be traced to this single statistic;

WHEREAS, 90% of brain development occurs during the first five years of life, which makes these years particularly critical to the emergence of a strong society;

WHEREAS, healthy development in these early years provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, strong communities, and successful parenting of the next generation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the below signatories agree to communicate, collaborate and prioritize all of the work necessary to develop a culture that promotes early childhood education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the signatories hereto agree to work proactively and collaboratively to implement the objectives set forth below with the goal of reaching all families with young children in the Caddo Bossier MSA to afford them the opportunity to achieve kindergarten readiness:

1. Create and disseminate a consistent community message on early brain development and the implications for society-at-large.
2. Identify, link together, improve and expand all systems to strengthen families, and to promote quality and affordable childcare and kindergarten readiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this Resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of the Resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict thereof are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date