

Edna Martin Christian Center
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Abstract

The Martindale-Brightwood Education Zone (MBEZ) with Edna Martin Christian Center serving as the lead proposes to implement the Full-Service Community School program targeting three schools in the Martindale-Brightwood (M-B) neighborhoods in Indianapolis, Indiana. The target population includes up to 1400 youth in elementary, middle and high school of which over 86% of the students are African American, 5% Latino, 2.3% white, and 5% multicultural. The majority of the students attending KIPP- Indy schools receive free or reduced lunch (93.5% at the elementary and 86.1% at the middle school.) The MBEZ intends to serve parents and families connected to the students as well as other M-B families with children ages 0-5 enrolled in childcare.

The M-B neighborhoods reflect over 10,135 residents with 28% of the population under the age of 19. Over 85% of the population is African American, 7.6% White and 3.9% other. MB, recognized as one of the poorest neighborhoods in Indianapolis has a poverty rate of 41%, unemployment rate of 19.6% and 73% of children are raised by single parents.

The Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)-Indy elementary, middle and high schools are part of the Indianapolis Public School Innovation Network which maintains a district wide Title I status. KIPP-Indy student population reflects similar racial and economic composition of the neighborhoods.

Over a five year period, the MBEZ, guided by the MBEZ director and FSCS coordinators to work with school leaders and the MBEZ service delivery team to deploy activities and interventions to achieve the following goals: (1) Martindale-Brightwood children 0-5 are kindergarten-ready; (2) KIPP-Indy students perform at grade-level; (3) KIPP-Indy students participate in high quality youth development programs; and (4) KIPP-Indy parents/caregivers acquire the knowledge and skills to support their child/children's education at home as well as school. The plan prioritizes outcomes for students, parents, and families: improve the reading and math scores, reduce chronic absenteeism and suspensions, improve parent engagement in school and home, and increase the number of children in childcare deemed kindergarten ready.

As a collective impact model, MBEZ partners have agreed to implement programs in the KIPP-Indy schools as well as after school locations such as EMCC to provide enhanced learning opportunities for students. Partners include: IUPUI, Crown Mentoring, 220 Leadership, EdFit, Felege Hiywot Center, Sustainable Connexions, Next IT Girl and EMCC's Leadership and Legacy Center and Community Solutions and Entrepreneurship Center. These entities are prepared to deliver programs including workforce development, STEM, character development, mentoring, international exchange, and entrepreneurship.

The MBEZ will deploy two evidence-based curriculums, recommended by Indiana's Department of Education to supplement efforts to improve reading and math scores. Students experiencing absenteeism and suspensions and their families will receive more intense services from the MBEZ service team to address potential health, housing, mental health, workforce development, transportation and other social service needs contributing poor attendance and behavior in school. Parents will also be encouraged to participate in activities the school as well as the broader community. An evaluator will design and implement an evaluation plan to document key outputs, outcomes and the processes used to help the MBEZ partners make possible refinement each year.