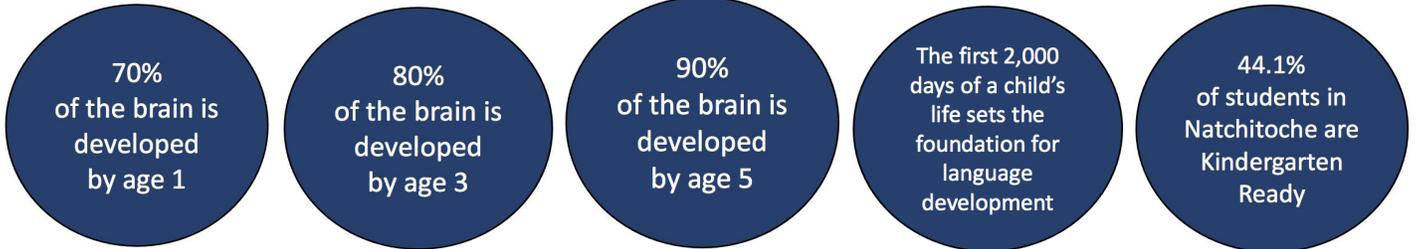# READY START NATCHITOCHES (RSN) BLUEPRINT SUMMARY

VISION: By working together as a community, our children will grow, learn, and reach their full potential.
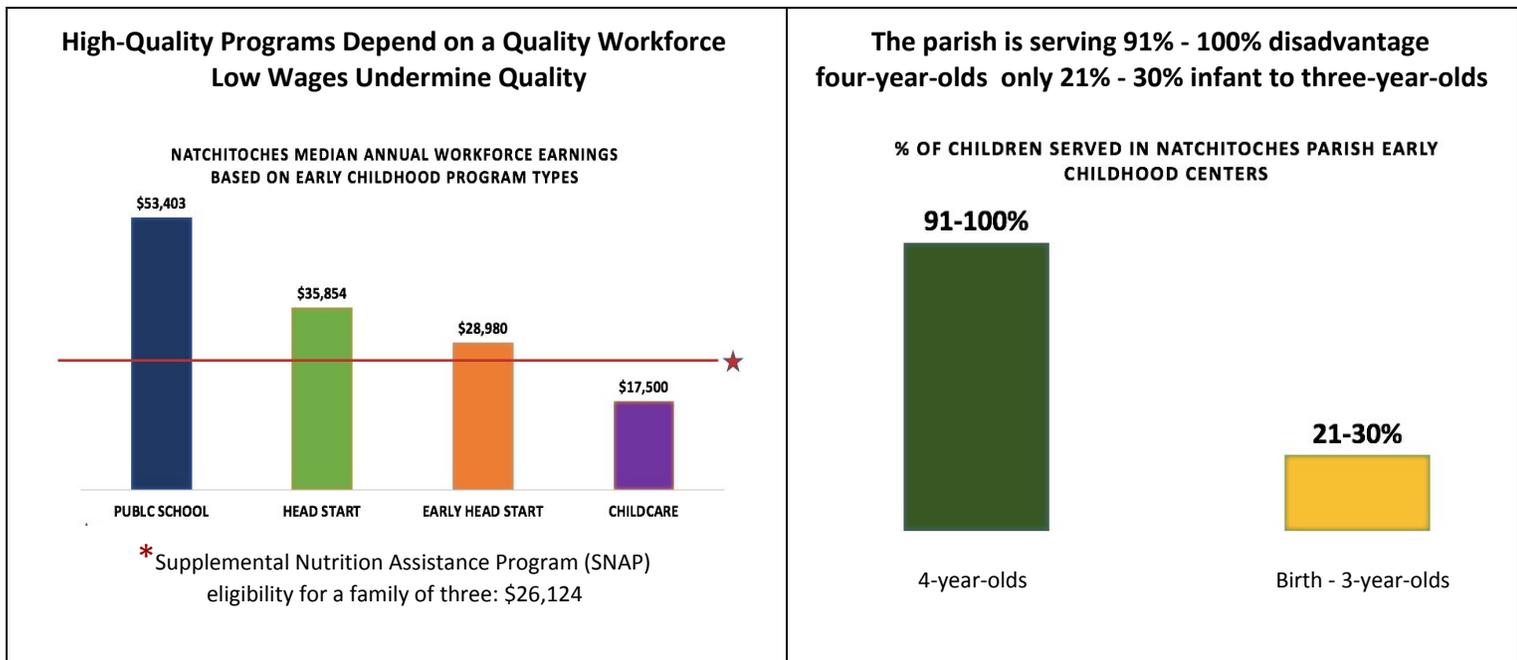
MISSION: Ensure our community understands and supports a system of high-quality and sustainable early childhood education to develop a foundation for life-long learning.

The following facts highlight the need for RSN to unite and support young children and families:

70%
of the brain is
developed
by age 1

80%
of the brain is
developed
by age 3

90%
of the brain is
developed
by age 5

The first 2,000
days of a child's
life sets the
foundation for
language
development

44.1%
of students in
Natchitoche are
Kindergarten
Ready

RSN is a coalition of individuals committed to creating and implementing a bold local vision for early childhood. RSN is driven by our community's need to improve opportunities and inspire change for children birth to age five. these individuals will continuously meet to create a seamless and coherent system, leverage funding/maximize investments, and increase the quality of and access to early childhood opportunities.

Natchitoches Parish Network has 16 Early Childhood sites: 5 public schools, 9 private pay Type III childcare centers, and 2 Head Start sites. All Natchitoches Parish Early Childhood educators are implementing best practices, such as using a tier 1 curriculum, documenting students' progress, obtaining an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate or higher, and receiving at least two CLASS® observations per academic year. Early Childhood sites have consistently shown improvements since 2016. The 2018-2019 overall score is 5.13 Proficient out of 7.00, a 0.12 growth since 2017-2018. Even with these achievements, there continues to be significant gaps in Natchitoches Parish Early Childhood programs.

High-Quality Programs Depend on a Quality Workforce Low Wages Undermine Quality

NATCHITOCHES MEDIAN ANNUAL WORKFORCE EARNINGS
BASED ON EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM TYPES

- $53,403 — PUBLC SCHOOL
- $35,854 — HEAD START
- $28,980 — EARLY HEAD START
- $17,500 — CHILDCARE

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: $26,124

The parish is serving 91% - 100% disadvantage four-year-olds only 21% - 30% infant to three-year-olds

% OF CHILDREN SERVED IN NATCHITOCHES PARISH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

91-100%
4-year-olds

21-30%
Birth - 3-year-olds

Ready Start Natchitoches Goals

1. Increase knowledge about and support high-quality early childhood care and education within the Natchitoches community.
2. Increase birth - 3-year-old seats to ensure families have access to affordable, high-quality child care and education.
3. Achieve and maintain retention rates among birth- 3-year-old child care professionals
4. Assist child care centers with sharing resources and services to lower expenses, increase support and eliminate duplication.