

Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent

Starfish Program

Program Director: Marty Bell/Dana Shumate

Evaluator: Dr. Marco Muñoz

Last Year of Evaluation: 2007-2008

Goal/Strategy

- Goal 3: Strengthen Organizational Culture; Strategy 3: Provide Leadership Opportunities for Students AND Strategy 6: Engage the Community
- Goal 4: Improve Organizational Effectiveness: Enhance Student and Employee Health and Increase Attendance

Program Description

- The City of Louisville funds water safety and swimming lessons for all second-grade students who attend JCPS.
- The Starfish program is an instruction program in swimming that includes a water-safety curriculum and four 45-minute swimming lessons for each child.
- JCPS along with the YMCA, Metro Parks, the University of Louisville, and All About Kids have worked together to implement the program
- Many of the students who participate in the program do not have swimsuits and other necessary supplies. The District provides through the JCPS foundation.

Students Served

- Elementary school students (n = 7,139) who are in the second grade

Outcomes

- A survey research was conducted in 2008. Stakeholders (N = 1,260) included in the survey research were (a) principals, (b) teachers, and (c) parents/guardians.
- The highest percentage of support to the Starfish Program came from parents (95.4%), followed by teachers (82.5%) and principals (73.5%).
- The vast majority of respondents expressed that the Starfish Program increased water safety knowledge (over 90%) and increased the swimming skills among students and over 80%); however, a need for more adequate curriculum materials was expressed.
- Over 80% of the respondents thought that the Starfish Program is an appropriate partnership between JCPS, Metro Government, and community organizations

Cost

- Metro Government provides \$90,000. JCPS provides \$16,695 from General Funds and \$52,183.46 in buses for a total of \$68,878.46.
- The grand total is \$158,878.46 for a cost per student of about \$22.26.