



SOARS

Students Optimally
Accelerating and Reaching
for the Stars

Students **Optimally Accelerating and Reaching for the Stars (SOARS)**

- A program made possible by the collective impact of community partners.
 - Atlanta Public Schools
 - M Agnes Jones Elementary
 - Atlanta Speech School
 - United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
 - Morehouse School of Medicine



Memorandum of Understanding

- MOU's are helpful in several ways
 - Good business practice
 - Clear and healthy partnerships and relationships
 - Roles of multiple partners
 - Financial responsibilities

SOARS

M. Agnes Jones Elementary School

- 4 weeks (June 4th-29th)
- 7 classrooms (rising K-3rd grade)
- Approximately 80 students
- 14 teachers, 1 para, and 1 intern
- 3 facilitators/coaches for the teachers
 - 2 from the Atlanta Speech School
 - 1 from Atlanta Public Schools
- Weekly family engagement sessions facilitated by United Way



A Few Questions to Consider

- Data Sharing
 - What information do you need?
 - Who's permission do we need to assess children?
 - Who collects it?
 - Who else has permission to see it and at what level (student, classroom, school)?
 - What will the data be used for (student selection, teacher evaluation)?

Student Selection Process

- Jones (elementary school) used SFA data to code all children that would be rising 1-3rd grade in a 5 tiered color coded system (below grade level to excelling above grade level)
- The data collector worked with Jones and based on scores and teacher recommendations, identified 120 children. This group was screened with DIBELS by the data collector.
- 100 children were invited to participate in SOARS based on SFA and DIBELS scores (pretest).
- Approximately 80 children attended SOARS
- In the fall of 2012, all 120 children will be assessed again with DIBELS (post-test)
- -----
- In Jan/Feb, the process will begin again. We would like to use this set of data to identify children for the summer, with the April/May time frame as a backup.

Moving Forward

- During the summer, we asked the families' for permission to assess children
- During the school year, we need to clarify with the district these data sharing questions
 - In preparation for Summer 2013, we need to collect data in Jan/Feb and again in May.
 - Who collects this data?
 - Is it a separate assessment or part of the school data?
- What are the sustainability issues around data collection?

Moving Forward

- **Summer 2012:**
 - Children
 - Student names, grade, birthdate, classroom teacher, gender, race/ethnicity, home language
 - Success for All and DIBELS data (April/May)
 - Teachers
 - Application based on positive attitude and willingness
- **Summer 2013:**
 - Children
 - Grade retention status, DIBELS data in Jan/Feb and April/May
 - Teacher
 - Demographic information (education, years of experience)
 - More specific criteria about teacher selection

