



FAMILY LITERACY SUPPORT NETWORK (FLSN)
Division for School Improvement
Los Angeles County Office of Education

PILOT EXEMPLARY VALIDATION PROGRAM (EVP) PROCESS

This fact sheet outlines the process and benefits of participation in the EVP process.

FACT SHEET
2006-2007

BACKGROUND: The First 5 LA funded Family Literacy Initiative seeks to increase the school readiness of young children, and to improve the abilities of families to provide stable, nurturing, and stimulating environments for their children through the development of exemplary program models that can be replicated throughout the county. At the request of First 5 LA to establish model programs, FLSN has developed the Exemplary Validation Program (EVP) pilot process. In October of 2006, FLSN will invite five (5) First 5 LA Grantees meeting established invitational criteria to participate in the “pilot phase” of FLSN/LACOE’s EVP for First 5 LA family literacy programs. FLSN’s vision is that all grantee programs will be participating in the EVP process by the year 2010.

WHO: First 5 LA funded family literacy programs in Cohorts I, II and III meeting the following criteria will be invited to participate in the 2006-2007 EVP pilot phase:

- Meets participant outcomes based on 2005-2006 indicators with matched scores on DRDP, CASAS, and ESPIRS.
- Meets First 5 LA compliance issues in their First 5 LA Scope of Work for 2005-2006
- Obtains administrative approval (letter of approval) to participate in the EVP process
- Obtains Parent Advisory Board (PAB) approval (letter of approval) to participate in the EVP process

WHAT: The Exemplary Validation Program (EVP) process accomplishes a two-fold purpose:

1. Affords 24 First 5 LA family literacy programs the opportunity to increase capacity, heighten expertise, and demonstrate evidence of provision of comprehensive services to families using the *Framework for Continuous Quality Improvement in Family Literacy Programs: A Tool for Program Self-Reflection* in a manner consistent with the validation process noted above.

2. Utilizes the Framework tool under defined criteria as the centerpiece and guide for the EVP process.

Validation is the application of the Framework to determine the performance of the program system. The EVP process allows programs and outside experts to examine achievement to increase the field's ability to demonstrate "what quality looks like" and to show how outcomes are achieved.

The EVP process consists of the following parts:

- Participate in technical assistance with FLSN
- Create and maintain program evidence-based portfolio
- Maintain data from First 5 LA database
- Program Director interview with expert panelists
- Undergo panel review, composed of experts using scoring rubric based on the Framework.

The Year 2 pilot phase is designed to document a program's Framework performance and outcomes, and to examine several key principles for success:

- Change is only sustainable if it involves learning
- Change starts small and grows organically
- Pilot groups are the incubators for change
- Significant change initiatives raise these two questions about the prevailing strategy and purpose of the organization: "Where are we going?" and "What are we here for?"¹

WHY: Validation has the potential to improve participant outcomes, foster innovative program practices and to increase quality in the field. Validation gives increased credibility to programs. Typically, validation increases a program's ability to present evidence of performance for program replication and/or sustainability. Exemplary validation requires processes/characteristics to be well grounded, and supported. Validation demonstrates that a model *does* consistently produce desired participant outcomes or program criteria.

WHEN: Below is the timeline for the implementation of the EVP "pilot" process for 2006-07.

October 20, 2006:	EVP Orientation to all First 5 LA Family Literacy Grantees
October 27, 2006	Invitations extended to qualifying Grantees
November 13, 2006:	Grantees Accept/Decline the EVP invitation
November 27 – December 15 2006:	Orientation provided to EVP Candidates
January, 2007:	Call for EVP expert panel readers
June-July, 2007:	Expert panel conducts reviews/interviews with EVP Candidates
August-September 2007:	Celebration of EVPs

¹ Senge, Peter, Cambron-McCabe, N., Lucas, T., Smith, B., Dutton, J., and Kleiner, A. Schools that learn. Doubleday. 2000. pages 272-275.

**EXPECTED
OUTCOMES:**

Grantees who participate in the EVP process can expect to increase program capacity by engaging their entire staffs and families in a process that defines exemplary practices and fosters collaborative efforts both within their program, community and in the field of literacy. Grantees will interact with experts in the field as they engage in a review of evidence of achievement, and are named an “Exemplary Validated Program.” Grantees deemed an EVP may have the opportunity to participate as a “demonstration site” serving as a replicable model and demonstration site for programs in Los Angeles County [FLSN/LACOE is attempting to secure additional funding to support this effort.]

FLSN, LACOE and First 5 LA will have a cadre of exemplary validated/model family literacy programs that are replicable and can serve as demonstration sites for new and existing programs in Los Angeles County. As programs meet the exemplary criteria and participate in expert review, FLSN, LACOE and First 5 LA will have a broad body of evidence of the success of grantees in provision of comprehensive services to families.