



# Deer Creek Promise Neighborhood

Washington County, Mississippi

The Deer Creek Promise Neighborhood serves children and families who live in the Mississippi Delta. The coordinating agency, the Delta Health Alliance, partners with two elementary schools, one middle school, and two high schools, as well as multiple other partners. Together, they work to ensure students read at grade level by the end of third grade and transition successfully from middle to high school and then on to college or other postsecondary education.

## COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

African American 66%

White 31%

Latino 2%



32%

of Deer Creek PN residents live below federal poverty level

26%

of Deer Creek PN households are families with children

\$29,736

average median household income (per year) in Washington County

2,476

children live in the neighborhood footprint

1,471

children are enrolled in partner schools

18 partner agencies

5 partner schools

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

### ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

#### Kindergartener Development

43%

of kindergarteners are ready for school

#### Academic Proficiency Math

16%

of students are proficient in math

#### Academic Proficiency ELA

15%

are proficient in English language arts

#### High School Graduation

87%

of students graduate on time

### SELECT STRATEGIES

- Universal book delivery program
- Head Start and kindergarten transition programs
- Maternal home visiting

- Technological tools in the classroom to improve instruction
- Professional development programs and a coach for teachers
- After-school tutoring and enrichment

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- Summer camps and credit recovery programs
- Individualized attendance plans for students who are chronically absent
- College Promise initiative with speakers and events on life after high school

Source for academic challenges: APR ad hoc summary, year 1

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dorothy was very worried that her daughter Janet would not pass the state-mandated reading assessment for third graders because of her difficulties with understanding text, but she wasn't sure where to go for help. Luckily, the Deer Creek Promise Community's LINKS (Linking Individual Kids and Neighborhoods to Service) reached and connected the family to a clinic that specializes in child development. The health professionals there diagnosed Janet with dyslexia and attention deficit disorder. Today, Janet receives ongoing services from the clinic as well as 1:1 help from a counselor and Deer Creek literacy fellows in her school. Through LINKS, the family continues to receive home-based reading-improvement tools and a range of other resources. Janet passed her third-grade reading assessment, and her reading skills continue to improve.