



**EXCEL BY**

**5**

**SM**

# ***What is Excel By 5?***

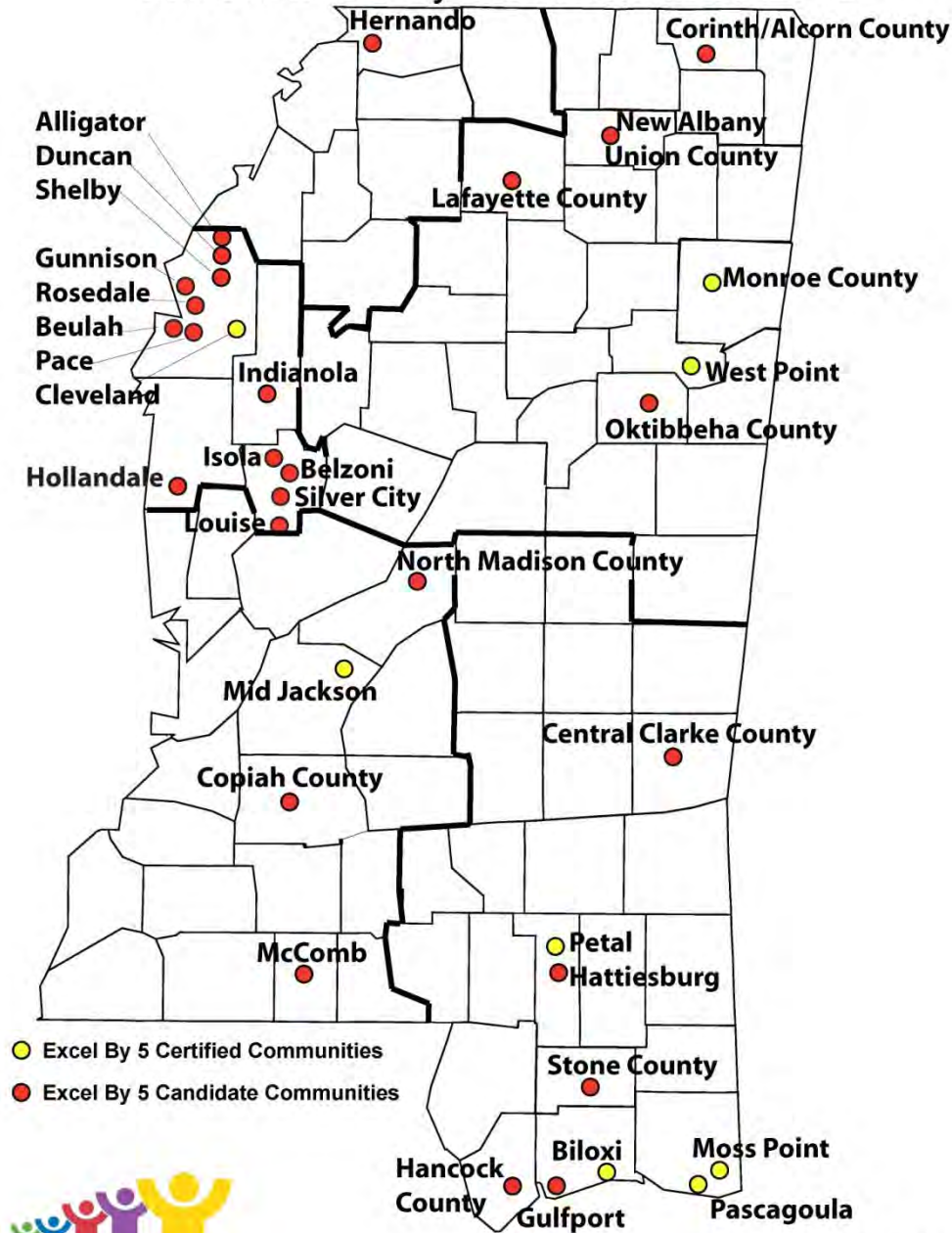
- **Excel By 5** is a certification whereby communities can be formally recognized for their progress to support young children 0-5 and their families.
- Children in Excel By 5 communities will be healthy and prepared for kindergarten and first grade.

# And, it is much more...

## *Excel By 5:*

- identifies gaps in community resources,
- promotes community collaboration and volunteerism,
- promotes economic development,
- relies on existing best practices.

# Current Excel By 5 Communities 2012



- Excel By 5 Certified Communities
- Excel By 5 Candidate Communities



Map courtesy of Excel By 5, Inc.  
Updated 05/29/2012

# Why Focus on the Early Years?

- At birth, the brain is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of its future adult size.
- By year 1, it is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its adult size.
- **By age three the child's brain is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times more active than the brains of adults.**
- Experiences in the first three years contribute significantly to the structure of the brain.
- The window of opportunity for making brain connections largely closes by about age 5. **If they didn't form by then, they may never form.**

**A Child's** experiences in the first months and years of life determine whether he or she will enter school eager to learn or not.

By school age, **family and caregivers** have already prepared the child for success or failure. The **community** has already helped or hindered the family's capacity to nurture the child's development.

*T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.*

*Pediatrician*

# Dollars and Sense

- For every \$1 invested in quality pre-K programs, there is a \$7 return through:
  - Increased tax revenues
  - Decreased outlays for health, public assistance, and other social services
  - Lower criminal-justice-system costs
  - Lower expenditure for special and remedial education.



# The Ready Child Equation

Ready Families + Ready Communities +  
Ready Services + Ready Schools =

*Children Ready for School*





*"I believe it is the responsibility of the people of Mississippi to try to raise the level - economically, educationally, spiritually and otherwise - of all the people of Mississippi. There's nobody else who's going to come in here and do it for us."*

*~George McLean, CREATE Founder*

# Focus Areas of Certification

- Community Involvement
- Family & Parent Support
- Early Care & Education
- Health

# Community Organization

- Coalition Members
- Focus Groups
- Steering Committee
- Certification Manager
- Lead Agency

# Community Involvement

- Excel By 5 Community Coalition
- Quarterly Coalition Meetings
- Community Needs Assessment
- Community Action Plan
- Annual Town Hall Meeting
- Resource Guide

# Family & Parent Support

- Communication of Information
  - Community Resources & Services
  - Newborn Packets
  - Family Education Workshops (Qtly)
- Family Resource Center
- Family Support Referral System
- Community Wide Event



# Early Care & Education

- Educational Partner Meetings (3/School Yr.)
  - Early Learning Guidelines
- Educational Staff – Credentials & Training Hours
- Child Care Centers Assessed Using Nationally Standardized Rating Scales
- Support In-Home Providers
- Identify Agency to Disseminate Training Information
- Annual Community Event to address School Readiness



# Health

## ■ Identification of Health Issues

- Immunizations, Health Checkups, Common Symptom Recognition, First Aid, Safety, Nutrition, etc.



## ■ Annual Children's Health Fair

- Developmental/Health Screenings
- Health & Safety Information



## ■ Early Intervention Services

- First Steps
- Child Find





# Grenada/Grenada County Statistics

- Population (2010)\* **13,092 – 21,906**
- Children under 5 years of age (2010)\* **942 – 1,445**
- Total Births (2010)\*\* **173 - 258**

\* US Census Bureau (<http://quickfacts.census.gov>)

\*\* Mississippi State Department of Health (<http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/phs/stat2010.htm>)

# Grenada/Grenada County Child Care Centers

	<b>Grenada</b>	<b>Outside Grenada</b>	<b>Grenada County</b>
<b>Children 0-5</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>1703</b>
<b>Full Time Child Care Centers</b>	13	0	
<b>Total Capacity</b>	1,162		
<b>Enrollment 0-5</b>	<b>759</b> (65% Capacity)		
<b>Number of Employees</b>	160		
<b>0-5 Not in Licensed Child Care</b>	<b>356</b> (32%)	<b>588</b> (100%)	<b>944</b> (55%)