

Berrien ISD

Berrien County's goals for insuring that all kids read on grade level by grade three are:

- Parents As Teachers program available throughout the county
- Preschool available for all four-year-olds (including an assessment)
- Parenting class available in all high schools

We plan to write a high school parenting curriculum. Currently there are a number of curriculum dealing with some of the areas which need to be included in this curriculum; i.e. child development (psychology), nutrition (family living), etc. However, we have not found a curriculum that is up-to-date which deals specifically with how to be a parent. This would include such areas as brain development, emotional needs, and language development and literacy.

Our rationale for this project is that most of our future parents attend our high schools. Since we can document the extreme importance of good parenting to our society, as well as to our future students' success, it makes sense to put the class into high school.

Jeanne Morris is willing to work with other ISDs to develop this initiative.