

# Great We Grow

## A Strategic Collaboration Between Morgan Woods Elementary & Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center: 2021-22



Great We Grow is an innovative collaboration model funded by Conn Memorial Foundation that brings together families, schools and community partners to improve kindergarten readiness and transition. By working collectively and creatively from day one, we test ideas locally to expand successful educational approaches regionally. Our latest project brings a private preschool onto an underutilized public elementary school campus to increase positive student outcomes.

### PROGRAM

The educational model we're testing

Cornerstone Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School will operate a voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) class at Morgan Woods Elementary during the 2021-22 school year to determine if bringing a private preschool onto an underutilized public school campus can increase kindergarten recruitment, retention and readiness.

### PARTNERS

Collaborating schools

**Cornerstone Rosa Valdez  
Early Learning Center and Lab School**  
1802 North Albany Avenue | Tampa, FL 33607

- Ages 6 weeks to 5 years
- One of only two Nationally Accredited Childcare Centers in Old West Tampa
- 91% of children qualify for free or reduced lunch



**Morgan Woods  
Elementary School**  
7001 Armand Drive | Tampa, FL 33634

- VPK through fifth grade (419 total students)
- 89% of children qualify for free or reduced lunch
- Current school grade: C



### PURPOSE

The objectives we believe are achievable by 2023-24

#### RECRUITMENT

- Increase the **number of 4-year-olds** at Morgan Woods from 20 (2019-20) to 40 in Year 1 and to 60 in Year 3.
- Improve the percentage of children coming from **Great We Grow partner preschools** to Morgan Woods from 30% (2019-20) to 70%.

#### RETENTION

- Achieve an 80% **retention rate** for on-campus Rosa Valdez preschool students who stay at Morgan Woods for kindergarten.

#### READINESS

- Improve **kindergarten readiness** from 45% (2019-20) to 70% for all children starting school at Morgan Woods.
- Improve Morgan Woods' **school grade** from C to A.

### PROCESS

How we'll accomplish our objectives

- **Experienced facilitator** provides support and accountability
- Preschool and kindergarten **teachers work together** on shared objectives, curriculum and outcomes
- Teachers receive monthly **professional development stipend** and access to Waterford **digital tools** to improve academic performance
- **Replicable model** designed to expand proven results to more areas with support from Conn Memorial Foundation and others

### ANTICIPATED IMPACT

What success looks like

More children in Hillsborough County are ready for kindergarten (STAR/iReady) and successfully transition to elementary school.