Community Partnerships

Goal: To strengthen education, supports and services for children and families from early childhood programs into early elementary settings

Many communities have used the process below to create a community partnership or align with an existing partnership to develop a strategic plan for their B-3 efforts.

Critical Components:
- Governance Structure: establish and support collaborative (cross-organizational and cross-sector) board or committee that formalizes decision-making roles and responsibilities among partners and prioritizes B-3 efforts
- Strategic Plans: develop, share, and regularly update a strategic plan for the B-3 work that reflects shared commitment to improving outcomes for children
- Funding & Support: generate, reallocate, leverage, connect, and/or blend public and private funds to ensure that collaborative B-3 efforts are adequately funded to ensure effective implementation

Common Strategies: Below is a list of common B-3 strategies that other B-3 community partnerships have implemented. It is not an all-inclusive list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B-3 Strategy</th>
<th>Stakeholders Involvement</th>
<th>Outputs and Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District administrators and community leaders organize a recognized entity (e.g., board, committee, leadership team) which has the charge to guide, monitor and make decisions regarding B-3 efforts.</td>
<td>School district representatives, parents/guardians, early learning programs, social service organizations, other community service organizations</td>
<td>• Established Governance Structure with common agenda for young children • Identified B-3 goals within in that structure • Identified teams working towards set B-3 goals</td>
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<td>Conduct and regularly update a community-wide needs-assessment that identifies: • child/family demographics • education and child care programs • mobility patterns</td>
<td>District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team</td>
<td>• Current data for strategic plan • Tool for regular input from the community • Useful strategic indicators of B-3 efforts</td>
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The B-3 leadership team develops and communicates a shared vision and strategic plan for B-3 efforts.

- Roles and responsibilities of partners should be included:
  - Roles of school and early learning leaders
  - Roles of B-3 teachers
  - Roles for community partners
  - Positive family engagement strategies

| School district representatives, parents/guardians, early learning programs, social service organizations, other community service organizations | Communication plan to regularly share B-3 vision and progress both internally and externally
| • Identified roles for each stakeholder
| • Agreed upon improvement plan goals for each stakeholder
| • Alignment of stakeholder individual strategic plans and policies to agreed up on outcomes |

District and community leaders identify and allocate funding to support collaborative B-3 activities

- District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team

| District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team | Opportunities for joint funding projects
| • Collaborative structure for leveraging or attracting external funding |

Funding of a family resource coordinator at school and/or community level (this position might be shared)

- District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team

| District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team | Identified plan for meeting the needs of the whole child and their families
| • Ability to support to stakeholders working towards B-3 outcomes |

Staff are allowed time to meaningfully work on B-3 issue and with partners. Strategies may include:

- Innovative scheduling and collaborative strategies
- Joint professional development with community partners
- Prioritization of collaboration, adult learning and joint-decision making

| District and school administrators/staff and early childhood program directors & staff | Engaged B-3 teachers
| • Enhanced community partnerships |

Resources:

- **PreK-3rd Coalition: How Three School Districts Accomplished More Together than Alone** (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- **Beyond the School Yard: Pre-K Collaborations with Community-Based Partners** (The PEW, Center on the States)
- **Innovating to Align Early Childhood Services** (FSG)
- **Toolkits for Building and Strengthening Community-Based, Cross-Sector Early Childhood Collaborations** (Plan, Partner, Act)
- **Family and Community Engagement** (Annenberg Institute for School Reform)

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