

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.

B-3 Strategy	Stakeholders Involvement	Outputs and Outcomes
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.	School district representatives, parents/guardians, early learning programs, social service organizations, other community service organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Conduct and regularly update a community-wide needs-assessment that identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child/family demographics • education and child care programs • mobility patterns 	District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current data for strategic plan • Tool for regular input from the community • Useful strategic indicators of B-3 efforts

<p>The B-3 leadership team develops and communicates a shared vision and strategic plan for B-3 efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>School district representatives, parents/guardians, early learning programs, social service organizations, other community service organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>District and community leaders identify and allocate funding to support collaborative B-3 activities</p>	<p>District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for joint funding projects • Collaborative structure for leveraging or attracting external funding
<p>Funding of a family resource coordinator at school and/or community level (this position might be shared)</p>	<p>District administrators and community leaders through the B-3 leadership team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified plan for meeting the needs of the whole child and their families • Ability to support to stakeholders working towards B-3 outcomes
<p>Staff are allowed time to meaningfully work on B-3 issue and with partners. Strategies may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative scheduling and collaborative strategies • Joint professional development with community partners • Prioritization of collaboration, adult learning and joint-decision making 	<p>District and school administrators/staff and early childhood program directors & staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)

<http://education.illinoisstate.edu/csep/b3/>

