Close the Gap: Local and Sustainable PreK – 3 Alignment

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Welcome
Step 1 - Introduce yourself to someone seated near you.

Step 2 – Decide who will be partner A and partner B

Step 3 - Partner A tell your partner why you are interested in PreK-3.

Step 4 - Partner B tell your partner what you are most interested to learn about today.

Meet Your Neighbor
Plan for today:

- Share our story
- Explore tools & resources
- Identify opportunities
Philanthropy Now podcast: Can we bridge the gap between early learning and elementary school?

https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/blog/philanthropy-now-podcast/can-we-bridge-gap-between-early-learning-and-elementary-school
What are we after?

Better outcomes for ALL children:

- strong foundational cognitive skills
- social & emotional competence, including self regulation and executive functioning
- consistent engagement in school & learning
COGNITIVE IMPACTS IN EARLY-CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

In a forthcoming analysis of 67 early-childhood-education programs found to have significant benefits, researchers at the University of California, Irvine, and Duke University found that most results faded within a few years.


EDUCATION WEEK
“When children engage in a coherent set of high-quality P-3 learning experiences, the “fade out” effect is greatly diminished.”

Bogard & Takanishi, 2005
What is a PreK – 3 learning community?

- Connected learning
- Based on child development
- Transcends boundaries
- Working together
PreK – 3 Programs have shown:

- Reduction in need for special education services and children being held back
- Improvement in:
  - Vocabulary and oral language skills
  - Social-emotional development
  - Attendance
- Increase in parental involvement
- Higher rates of high school graduation
- Greater educational gains as adults
The Big Picture in San Mateo County

2009 – Research on kindergarten readiness proficiency

2010 – Launched **Bridges to Success** – SMCOE, F5SMC, SVCF
  • 8 San Mateo County school districts
  • Mini-grant program to promote connections between ECE & elementary
  • Summer bridge program – Kickoff to Kindergarten

2015 – **The Big Lift** – Goal of 80% children reading proficiently in 3rd grade
  • 7 of 11 communities - 1st cohort – 2015, 2nd cohort – 2016
  • 4 pillars – preschool, attendance, family engagement, summer learning

2017 – **Close the Gap!**
Close the Gap

Local initiatives – Bayshore, Brisbane and Pacifica School Districts

• Connect early childhood learning to TK – 3rd grade
• Promote family, community & school partnerships
The Bayshore School
The Bayshore Community – Growing engaged hearts, educated minds, and empowered visionaries.

Bayshore Elementary School  Dr. Audra Pittman

- Daly City, CA
- 380 Students
- 35% Hispanic
- 28% Filipino
- 18% Asian
- 7% Black or African American
- 6% Native American or Pacific Islander
- 19% English Learners
- 13% of our students are students with disabilities
- 70% are socioeconomically disadvantaged
- 79% Unduplicated
Mini-grants:
• $10,000 - $20,000
• First cycle – 15 months 2017-2018
• Second cycle – 24 months 2018-2020

Support & Development
• Coaching & expertise
• Research & Convenings
• Trainings
• Development of tools & resources
Tiered Model:

Phase 1 → Phase 2 → Phase 3

Close the Gap
Close the Gap

Leadership

- Clear vision
- Collaborative relationships
- Shared accountability
PreK – 3 Leadership Team

- Formalize connections between early childhood and elementary systems
- Function:
  - Develops the vision
  - Sets actionable goals
  - Builds supports
  - Celebrates success
- Representatives from public & private preschools, parents, community partners, TK – 3 teachers, site administrators, district administrator
PreK – 3 Vision: All students will experience a smooth transition to kindergarten as part of a continuum of high quality educational experiences that begin in preschool and continue into elementary school, building a foundation of social, emotional, cognitive and intellectual readiness that will support their future success.
Bayshore Elementary School District

All children will receive aligned, high-quality early learning experiences from PreK – 3rd grade that will build a foundation of social, emotional and intellectual skills. These skills will support their future success in school and for the rest of their lives. In this system of shared expectations, all partners – parents, teachers, childcare providers, school administrators, support staff, and families – will collaborate to enhance the students’ development of the four building blocks of school readiness: health and well-being, social and emotional development, language skills, and mathematical thinking.
Build Your PreK – 3 Leadership Team

• Develops the vision
• Sets actionable goals
• Builds supports
• Celebrates success

Personal Reflection:
• Does a PreK – 3 leadership team exist in your area/school district/community?
• If so, who is on the team? Are all the partners represented? Who needs to be invited?
• If not, what steps can you take to establish a team? What stakeholders do you need at the table?

Turn to a partner and share your reflections.
Instructional Effectiveness

Support for Administrators

Support for Teachers
Early Learning

Leading PreK - 3 Learning Communities

Leadership Academy
Table Time – Round 1
Table Time – Round 2
Table Time – Round 3
Active, joyful learning – more apples in the classroom!
Close the Gap

P-3 Professional Learning Series

- Cultural Competence and Social Emotional Learning
- Engaging in Practices of Science
- Literacy
PreK – 3 Alignment Practices:

**Top Responses:**
- Horizontal collaboration TK – 3rd – 4.19
- Use assessment data to inform instruction – 4.19
- Aligned assessment tools TK – 3rd – 4.0

**Lowest Responses:**
- Principals & teachers visit PreK – 2.79
- PreK visits TK & K – 2.89
- Actively partner with PreK providers – 3.25
Data-driven Improvement

PreK-3 Data Uses
- Identify Strengths and Support Areas
- Establish Goals
- Identify Professional Development Needs
- Inform Instruction

Plan and adjust instruction for incoming students
- Birth-PreK Data
- Kindergarten Data
- 1st Grade Data
- 2nd Grade Data
- 3rd Grade & Beyond

Adjust instruction and practices to strengthen alignment for future students
Connecting with your community partners:

- Early Learning Partner’s Network
  - Pacifica
- Summer, after school, social services?
ESSA Requirements:

• Systems for sharing information and school records
• Transition plans for children moving from preschool to public school systems
• Establishing channels of communication between teachers
• Joint professional development related to transitioning between systems
• Coordination of educational support services

https://www.nhsa.org/our-work/initiative/essa-toolkit
Community Connections

Who are your preschool, school and community partners?

Activity - Partner Inventory:

• Identify and list your community, school and preschool partners.
• What is their primary function/role (preschool, summer learning, after school, family support, etc.)
• What is your connection?
  • Strong – regular, two-way communication, “partnership”, MOU in place
  • Casual – occasional communication
  • Nonexistent – no relationship or communication
• What is the mechanism for establishing, building or maintaining relationships?
Family Engagement Tools:

Are You Ready? A Family’s Guide to Starting Kindergarten

- New! Videos
- Explores the building blocks of school readiness

https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/center-for-early-learning
Building Blocks of School Readiness

- Health & Well Being
- Social Emotional
- Language Skills
- Mathematical Thinking

Ready for Kindergarten
Close the Gap

Pathways to Success
Close the Gap

PreK – TK/K Transition Report

- Means of communication between ECE and TK – 12 systems
- Builds common understanding and shared practices
- Provides information to help schools & teachers get to know incoming students
- Informs PreK teachers of school-readiness indicators
- Supports children and families as they transition into TK/K
The Bayshore School

Preschool & Full-day Kindergarten
Action Planning
Resources for Building Local CA PreK - 3

Start with the basics

• Mindsets
  • Leadership Team & Vision
  • Identify as PreK – 8/12
• Collaborative Partnerships
• In-kind support
Resources for Building Local CA PreK - 3

• State and Local
  • LCAP/LCFF
  • Expanded TK
  • CA TK Stipend Program
• Parcel Taxes & Bonds
• Private Foundations & Grants
Resources for Building Local CA PreK - 3

• Federal - ESSA
  • Increase access to PreK
    • Titles I, IV
  • Collaborate & coordinate
    • Titles I, II & III
  • Build capacity
    • Titles I, II & III
• Engage families
  • Titles I, II, III, IV
Blending & Braiding Reflection

Look at your action plan.

- What resources will be required to implement your action plans?
- Have you started with the basics?
  - Mindsets, collaborative partnerships, in-kind support
- What possible sources exist?
  - State & local, federal
- How can you plan for sustainability?
Questions?
Thank You

For more information, please contact:

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