

Suggestions to Enhance Community and School Connections

The Partnership for America's Economic Success has identified investing in young children's education as an economic imperative. Involving business partners and other stakeholders in the transition process ensures a level of understanding about the important work of educating young children. Following are suggestions for engaging community partners:

Families can:

- Promote and support agencies and business that support early childhood education
- Share their stories of children's quality early learning experiences with employers, business leaders and policy makers

Sending programs can:

- Establish policy coordination through interagency (agencies who coordinate multiple services for a single child) services
- Compile a "Who to Call" resource guide listing community resources
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child or Kid's Fair events
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings

Receiving programs can:

- Establish policy coordination through interagency services
- Compile a "Who to Call" resource guide listing community resources
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child or Kid's Fair events
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings

Communities can:

- Identify and communicate community expectations for children
- Present a Class of 20—T-shirt, pencil case, book or backpack to each incoming Kindergartener at registration
- Host a Transition Fair
- Support and advertise Kindergarten registration
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child or Kid's Fair events
- Organize 3-4 yearly meetings including early learning providers and school district personnel
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings
- Assist with developing joint community transition plans
- Develop and support creation of year long transition activities
- Create and distribute a survey to gather information from ECE teachers, K teachers, directors and principals about ways to be involved
- Schedule a special event or speaker for Pre-K and K families
- Prepare transition toolkits for collaborative transition teams and provide copies of new information, such as books, research articles and activities, as available

- Encourage local CEG to build a lending library for use by parents or sending and receiving staff
- Become involved with your local Community Engagement Group Participate in a poster conference to reflect the services and resources available
- Endorse business practices and supports of early learning programs and school such as donations and flex time for parents to attend programs and events