

Early Learning Communities: Integrated Quality Preschool Classrooms

Presented by: Kansas Head Start
Association

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Today you will understand:

- The Early Learning Community program performance standard cross walk tool
- The four phases of strategic planning and the validated collaboration tool used by the project
- Marketing tools used to communicate the success of the project



Major Components of ELC

- Community collaboration
- High-quality programs
- Comprehensive services
- Braided and blended funding from multiple sources
- Meaningful parent involvement
- Monitoring and accountability system



Benefits of Preschool Collaboration

- Shared resources, such as space, staff, expertise and professional development
- Alignment of standards, curriculum and best practices
- Natural peer environment
- Linkages to comprehensive services (e.g., health, mental health, social services)
- Increased family involvement
- Easier transition to kindergarten



Challenges

- Blending of different cultures (e.g., school district, Head Start, child care)
- Different program standards
- Cost allocations among different funding sources
- Staffing issues related to cost-sharing, credential requirements, etc.
- Time to invest in new collaborative relationships



From the beginning. . . .

- History of the project
- Funding of the project
- Key components of the project
- Partners in the project





Comparison of Components/Requirements for Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, and Four Year Old At-Risk*

HEAD START	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOUR YEAR OLD AT-RISK
<p>Child Health and Developmental Services</p> <p>Within 90 days determine if child is up to date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care (using Kan Be Healthy guidelines) Note: If program is KDHE licensed, child must be up to date before program entry)</p> <p>Within 45 days must conduct developmental, sensory, and behavioral screenings</p>	<p>Child Health and Developmental Services</p> <p>Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must have policies and procedures in place to identify children who need special education and related services.</p> <p>Local education agency (LEA) includes each unified school district, special education cooperative, school district <u>interlocal</u>, state school, and school institution.</p> <p>Screening is a method for identifying children with a need for evaluation and is only required when there is a concern about a child. It is recommended that a child be screened within 30 calendar days of referral.</p> <p>Screening must be available in the areas of communication, cognitive development, social-emotional development, self help/adaptive behavior and physical development and include vision and hearing screening.</p> <p>Several special education requirements must be completed within 60 school days. The 60 school day timeline begins with parent consent to conduct the initial evaluation and ends when the IEP is implemented.</p>	<p>Child Health and Developmental Services</p> <p>A range of services needs to be provided to support the education process such as nutrition, health and other services.</p> <p>Screenings are typically done the spring before children enter school/preschool.</p>

Complete program components/requirements for Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education and Four Year Old At-Risk programs should always be consulted as the requirements included in the matrix are abbreviated and not inclusive.

Comparative Program Standards Matrix

Funding: Braiding and Blending

- Head Start Funding
- State (Formerly At-Risk) Pre-K Funding
- Special Education Preschool Funding
- Partnerships/In-Kind contributions



Key Elements of Success: Strategic Planning and Collaboration

- Four Phases of Strategic Planning
 - Consultation
 - Strategic planning
 - Implementation planning
 - Sustainability planning



Absolutes Vs. Flexibility

- Absolutes
 - Head Start Performance Standards and CLASS
 - Standardized Data Collection/Evaluation Data
 - Strategic Planning
 - Collaboration Tool
- Flexibility
 - Everything else (location of classrooms, partnerships, curriculum, administration changes, assessments, budget etc.)



Develops Learning Communities On Multiple Levels

Classroom

- Partnerships to meet the direct needs of children and families

School District/Community

- Partnerships to elevate early childhood and blend resources at the community level

Statewide

- Developing a systems approach



Our Learning Communities Brochure

Building Community Partnerships for Preschool Programs



Building Community Partnerships



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Early Learning Communities

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-- Heather Hes



Early Learning Communities

Early Learning Communities (ELC), formerly known as Demonstration Learning Communities, is an integrated preschool classroom project funded by an Early Childhood Block Grant from the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund to the Kansas Head Start Association.

Early Learning Communities encourages a collaborative approach that invites a wide range of early childhood partners to:

- Unite behind a shared vision.
- Develop creative strategies to reach their own community's goals.
- Better serve children and families together.

Involved Communities

- Cimarron
- Coffeyville
- Goodland
- Grinnell
- Harvey County
- [Liberal](#)
- [McPherson](#)
- Olathe
- [Rossville](#)
- [St. Marys](#)

Our Newest Video(s)

Find us on YouTube: search “KHSVideo”

- Parent Engagement
 - Literacy
 - Project History
- Learning Communities
 - Financing
 - Evaluation
- Community Partnerships
- Administration Support

Making a difference.

- Collaboration Results
- Child Outcomes
- Family Engagement Results
- Comprehensive Service Results
- Community Engagement Results





Our Evaluation Data

- General Knowledge, Oral Communication, Written Language, Math Concepts, Work Habits and Attentive Behavior, Physical Development, Social-Emotional Development and Symbolic Development

Our Results

	KELI-4 Fall Mean	KELI-4 Spring Mean	KELI Mean
Physical Development	9.96	12.09*	11.37*
Social-Emotional Development	14.41	16.51*	19.31
Symbolic Development	8.38	11.81*	14.06
General Knowledge	7.48	10.67	10.05
Oral Communication	11.19	13.15*	18.95*
Written Language	7.76	13.24*	9.57**
Math Concepts	6.79	11.52*	17.20*
Work Habits	11.60	13.49*	17.08*
Attentive Behavior	11.80	13.47	16.57*



**What Questions Might You Have About
Kansas Early Learning Communities?**

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