

Early Learning Partnerships

What are Early Learning Partnerships?

Early learning partnerships are collaborations between local education agencies (LEAs) and private early learning programs (ELPs) or Head Start programs.

Formal

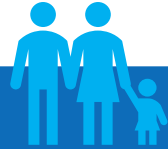
- Partners dually enroll children to provide prekindergarten and/or additional wrap-around services
- LEA passes through state funding to the ELP

Informal

- Partners share resources and information across LEA and ELP
- Students are not dually enrolled
- No funding is passed through



The Purpose of Early Learning Partnerships



- Expand opportunities for families



- Open new streams of funding



- Serve more eligible students



- Help LEA meet full-day pre-k requirement



- Open communication between LEA & ELP to align resources and services



- Increase quality of early childhood program to build school readiness

The guiding question for all of your partnership decisions should be
“What is in the best interest of our children and families?”

Formal Partnership Models

Formal Partnership Models allow for the LEA and ELP or Head Start program to dual-enroll children, provide prekindergarten and/or additional comprehensive services or extended hours, and blend multiple sources of funding. Each partner must meet the requirements and standards of their respective programs.

- LEA hires the certified classroom teacher and is responsible for salary, benefits, performance reviews and meeting TEA High Quality Pre-k requirements

LEA Employed
Teacher



- ELP hires and employs the certified classroom teacher and is responsible for salary, benefits, and meeting TEA High Quality Pre-k requirements

ELP Employed
Teacher



- LEA and Head Start both provide wrap around services, children are dually enrolled and funding can be blended

Head Start
Cooperative



Informal Partnership Model Examples

Informal Partnership Models are individualized to meet the unique needs and resources of the community they serve. LEAs and ELPs can be innovative in creating models that best serve their community.

- LEA and ELP provide shared professional development opportunities for teachers and staff

Professional Development



- LEA and ELP meet throughout the year to share data, plan and align instruction, assessment and progress-monitoring, with the goal of elevating school readiness

School Readiness Integration



- LEA and ELP meet throughout the year to plan and implement shared family engagement activities

Family Engagement

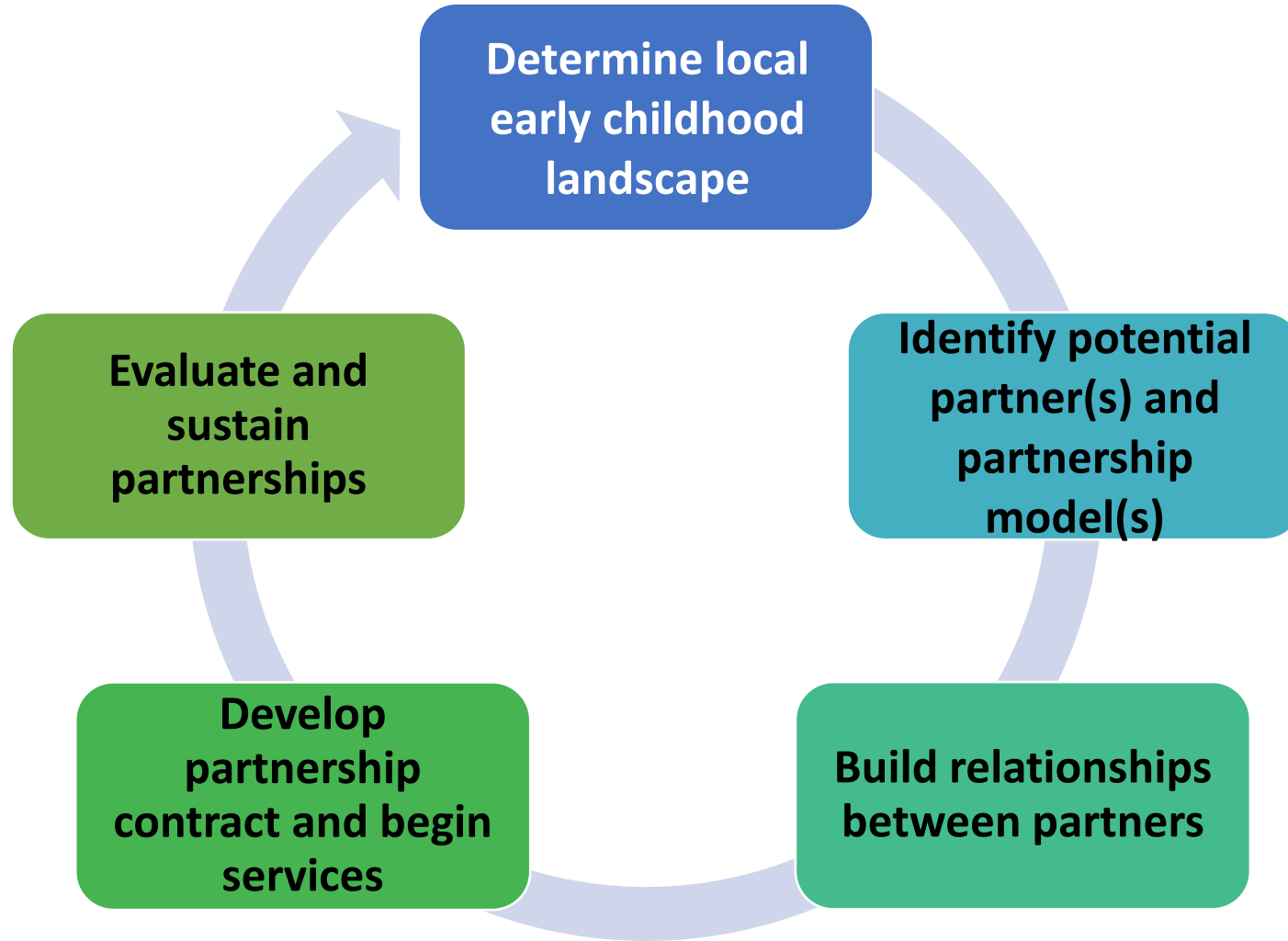


- LEA and ELP plan and implement Pre-k/ K transition activities for students and their families

Pre-k to Kinder Transition



Partnership Process



Where can I learn more?

If you would like to learn more about early learning partnerships, please contact Rachel Robinson at rachel.robinson@tea.texas.gov.

[Early Learning Partnerships Website](#)

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: Home / Academics / Early Childhood Education. The main heading is "Early Learning Partnerships". A paragraph explains that these are formal collaborations between local education agencies (LEAs) and private early learning centers (ELCs) or Head Start centers, allowing for dual enrollment and comprehensive wrap-around services. Below this are six informational cards:

- Partnership Guidebook**: TEA has developed the Early Learning Partnership Guidebook to assist LEAs and ELCs in building successful partnerships.
- Benefits (coming soon)**: Partnerships benefit a wide range of stakeholders including families and children, LEAs, ELCs, and the Early Childhood community.
- Models**: Partnership models are individualized to meet the unique needs and resources of each partner. Informal and formal partnership models can be implemented.
- Funding (coming soon)**: Partners can blend multiple funding sources to provide services to children and families.
- Partnership Solicitation**: LEAs must publicly solicit and consider proposals for partnerships from interested parties prior to requesting the full-day Pre-k exemption.
- Getting Started (coming soon)**: Establishing connections with potential partners is essential for success.

[Partnerships Guidebook](#)

