

PreK Partnerships: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated September 2020

1. What is an early learning partnership?

Early learning partnerships are formal collaborations between local education agencies (LEAs) such as school districts or open-enrollment charters, and private early learning programs (ELPs) or Head Start centers. The resulting partnership allows them to dual enroll children and provide prekindergarten and/or additional comprehensive, wrap-around services.

2. If my district isn't ready to dual enroll children, can we still create a partnership?

Yes, LEAs that are not interested in a formal partnership with dually enrolled children may want to create an informal partnership focused on sharing professional development, school readiness strategies, family engagement, kindergarten transitions, or other shared resources. Informal partnerships do not pass through funding.

3. Which early learning providers can my district partner with?

Early learning programs must meet one of the following eligibility criteria in order to partner with an LEA:

- Texas Rising Star 3- or 4-Star
- Nationally accredited
- Head Start program provider
- Texas School Ready! Participant
- Meet the requirements under [TEC Section 29.1532\(b\)](#)

4. Does TEA require my district to participate in early learning partnerships?

While TEA does not require districts to participate in partnerships, solicitation and consideration of partnership proposals is required in order for a district to apply for the full-day prekindergarten exemption. Partnerships can be very beneficial to districts because they provide a way to increase enrollment, and share space, professional development, family engagement and other resources to elevate school readiness for children entering the district for kindergarten.

5. Is there a resource available to help my district make a plan for developing a partnership?

The ECE Division has created the Early Learning Public-Private Partnerships Guidebook which is a valuable resource for districts and early learning programs as they plan for partnerships. The guidebook is included on the [Early Learning Partnership webpage](#). There are many other resources available on the partnership webpage.

6. Why should my district develop an Early Learning Partnership with a local Early Learning Program?

Early Learning partnerships provide many benefits to LEAs. Each LEA can develop a partnership that addresses the unique needs of their community, so the benefits depend on the needs the partnership addresses. Benefits of partnerships include but are not limited to the following: increased enrollment, increased classroom space, shared professional development, shared materials, shared family engagement, shared community resources, increased school readiness, expanded early childhood community.