



Connecting School Districts and Early Learning Hubs

The Student Success Act (SSA), passed in May 2019, includes funding to increase access to and improving the quality of preschool, fully fund Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education, and much more. School districts can use SSA resources to invest in crucial early learning programs that will prepare students for success when they enter kindergarten.

If a school district determines that expanding access to early childhood education (ECE) is a priority, it's important that they connect with their Early Learning Hub. This will ensure that early learning expansion is aligned and coordinated. Many families remain unserved, and coordination will reduce confusion among families and ensure all federal, state, and local funding streams are fully utilized.

Here are tips for how local Hubs and districts can work together in the coming months.

Tips for School Districts

1. Connect with your local Early Learning Hub director to learn about existing programs and areas to grow.
2. Join your Hub's SSA Stewardship Committee.
3. Share what you are learning from families in your community. What do parents of young children want from their district? What do elementary school parents wish existed for their children during early childhood?

Opportunities for School Districts to Engage with Their Hub

Timeline	Hub Activities	Opportunities for School Districts
Sept 2019	Create Regional Stewardship Committees to oversee the creation of the local plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join Stewardship Committee • Communicate with other K-12 leaders in your region about stewardship committee work and early childhood planning process
Oct 2019	Review county-level data from the state (on 9/30) to inform ECE expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at Hub data to inform your planning
Oct-Early Nov 2019	Gather input from families and providers about "priority populations" and identify what families want from preschool providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite parents with young children connected to your district to Hub opportunities to give input • Host joint K-12 and Hub parent input sessions
Late Nov 2019	Identify preschool providers who could best meet child and family needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your Hub if you are interested in being an ECE provider or if you have classrooms that could be used for ECE
Late Nov 2019	Identify possible funding streams that could support ECE expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your Hub if you think you will use district funds to expand ECE
Dec 13 2019	Submit final Hub plan for Phase I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the plan your Hub submits

Tips for Early Learning Hubs

1. Connect with your local school districts to make sure they understand your planning process and what the early learning landscape is in their district boundaries.
2. Join any local steering committees for districts likely to prioritize early learning in their planning.
3. Share what you are learning through your planning process about parent priorities and provider strengths.

Opportunities for Early Learning Hubs to Engage with Their School District

Timeline	District Activities	Opportunities for Hubs/early learning providers
Sept–Oct 2019	Conduct a community needs assessment to understand district data and community priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a community engagement event hosted by your district • Co-host a community engagement event
Oct–Nov 2019	Write and submit a Continuous Improvement Plan (rolling deadline 11/1–12/6), including documentation of community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend school district October School Board Meeting for the review of the Continuous Improvement Plan
Dec 2019	Final deadline for submitting Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read any relevant early childhood portions of local School District Continuous Improvement Plans
Jan 2020	Respond to feedback from ODE on the plan & learn about the process to apply for School Investment Account money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your school district what their process will be to apply for Student Investment Account money
Feb 2020	Gather additional community input on what to include in the Student Investment Account application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend February school board meeting to learn about Student Investment Account • Provide input to your school district regarding any possible investments in early learning and share opportunities for partnerships with local organizations
Mar 2020	Submit application for SIA and revise as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read any relevant early childhood portions of the Student Investment Account application • Support revisions of early childhood approaches
Apr–May 2020	Present SIA grant agreement to school board & finalize grant agreement with ODE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the final grant agreement • Prepare for any sub-grant agreements to deliver early childhood services
July 2020	Receive School Investment Account funds from ODE	