








# Partnering for Preschool

*A school district guide to braiding funds to expand access to early learning.*

## Partnerships Increase Funding

School districts can work with a variety of partners, braiding funding streams to provide more children with preschool.

-  School District/Title I Funds/ other federal funds
-  Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten
-  Preschool Promise
-  Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education
-  Private Tuition
-  Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)/ Child Care
-  Business Community/ Philanthropy

## Braiding



Funds from different sources are woven together to provide more services than they could individually support. Funds are tightly interlaced, but it is still possible to follow each resource stream and report on the services funded.

## State-Funded Preschool Programs

### Head Start/ Oregon Pre-Kindergarten

- Serves children living at or below the federal poverty level.
- Employs degreed teachers who use research-based curricula & assessments.
- Children make progress in health, language/literacy, math, science & social emotional development.
- Provides support for dual language learners.
- Supports learning at home & encourages healthy habits.
- Coordinates comprehensive services for families.
- Serves children with special needs.
- With recent SSA funding increases, is moving toward paying teachers on par with kindergarten and increasing pay for instructional assistants.
- Can design models that best meet community needs.

### Preschool Promise

- Serves children living at up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Offers six-hour school days.
- Employs degreed teachers who are paid on par with kindergarten teachers.
- Requires programs to meet quality standards
- Funds can be awarded directly to school districts.
- The amount of funds awarded is based on the actual expense of services.

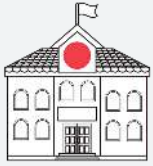
## Blending



Funds from different sources are combined into one "pot" then used to provide services. Individual funds aren't tracked and it's not possible to determine which funds paid for which aspects of a program. Because of reporting requirements, many funds can't be blended.

# Support Preschool in Your District

In addition to partnering to offer preschool within your district, there are other ways you can support efforts to expand access to early learning.



## Provide Classroom Space

Preschool programs are often in need of developmentally appropriate space and may be able to locate federally/state funded classrooms within your elementary school.



## Fund Additional Slots

Your district can provide funding to add slots in an existing preschool program. For example, at Wallowa Elementary School, Head Start funds a preschool that serves 10 kids; the district provides funding to serve an additional five students who don't qualify for Head Start services.

## Braided Funding in Action

### Tigard-Tualatin School District



The school district partnered with the Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRESD) to create inclusive preschool classrooms. Classes maintain a 1:7 teacher-student ratio. At least 25 percent of kids in each classroom have an identified disability. Classes run for 2.5 hours a day, four days per week, with the same teaching team providing morning and afternoon sessions to different groups of kids. NWRESD pays for the cost of hiring and keeping instructional assistants; TTSD pays for staff, licensed teachers, classroom space, furnishing, and supplies.



TTSD also partnered with Community Action Head Start to serve children who qualify for Head Start and Preschool Promise. Community Action operates preschool with braided funds at Durham and Charles F. Tigard Elementary Schools. Classes run for 6 hours a day; half the kids served qualify for Head Start and the other half for Preschool Promise.

### Salem-Keizer School District



One hundred and eighty staff working in 31 classrooms and a tuition-based model make it possible for the district to offer preschool services across the district. The program model, hours of service, and participation level vary based on the area and the family's qualifying service or need. Families are able to choose between the models for which they qualify, with some families receiving scholarships and paying tuition.

### Earl Boyles Elementary School



A community centered initiative offering preschool services to all 3- & 4-year-old children within the school zone who apply. Preschool operates 3.25 hours per day, four days per week, with 17 children in a class. All children receive the same baseline of quality classroom learning during the school day, and additional supports are offered per funding stream requirements for children who qualify. This program is funded by the school district, Head Start, the Multnomah Early Childhood program (an EI/ECSEE provider) and philanthropy. For more information, visit [childinst.org/our-work/early-works](http://childinst.org/our-work/early-works)

### Boardman Industry Learning Center



This program was launched as part of an initiative to ensure all 4-year-old children in Morrow County have access to preschool. Recognizing that working parents need longer service hours, the center provides early learning and care for up to 10 hours a day and serves 20 children. Parents pay \$400/month. Additional costs are subsidized by local businesses. Head Start runs the program, ensuring quality for all children and providing Head Start services to families who qualify. For more information, visit [umchs.com/bilc/](http://umchs.com/bilc/)