

Starting Strong: What You Can Do

Each of us plays a critical role in ensuring continuity across early learning from birth through 3rd grade, so that all children are healthy and ready for school and life.



POLICYMAKERS can advocate for policies that support an aligned system for early learning, birth through 3rd grade, including access to voluntary, full-day early learning programs, infant through pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, teacher planning time, and high-impact family and student supports.



SUPERINTENDENTS AND PRINCIPALS can promote aligned educational strategies within and across grades, robust connections and alignment with community-based preschool programs, and strong family and community outreach. Some communities may consider adding pre-kindergarten programs to public schools, or building strong alignment with pre-kindergarten programs that are already in public schools.



ADMINISTRATORS can help identify, leverage and effectively use funding sources, such as Title I funds, Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), special education funds and child care subsidies to bridge birth through 3rd grade approaches.



TEACHERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS can reach out to one another, build continuity and alignment among their classrooms and ease transitions for children by building bridges for them to the next level.



PARENT AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS can share books with their children daily, turn everyday moments into learning moments, and insist that their children's preschool and elementary schools work together.



FUNDERS can provide seed funding to launch linkages, promote knowledge sharing through networking and convening, and fund policy change efforts and organizations.