Enhancing Community and School Connections

Investing in young children’s education is an economic imperative. Involving business partners and other stakeholders in the transition process ensures a level of understanding about the important work of educating young children. The following are suggestions for engaging community partners:

Families can:
- Promote and support agencies and business that support early childhood education
- Share their stories of children’s quality early learning experiences with employers, business leaders and policy makers (Visit www.papromiseforchildren.com to tell your story or read the stories from other families.)

Sending programs can:
- Establish policy coordination through interagency (agencies who coordinate multiple services for a single child) services
- Compile a “Who to Call” resource guide listing community resources
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child, PA Promise for Children Month, or Kid’s Fair events
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings

Receiving programs can:
- Establish policy coordination through interagency services
- Compile a “Who to Call” resource guide listing community resources
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child, PA Promise for Children Month, or Kid’s Fair events
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings

Communities can:
- Identify and communicate community expectations for children
- Present a Class of [graduating year] T-shirt, pencil case, book or backpack to each incoming Kindergartener at registration
- Host a Transition Fair
- Support and advertise Kindergarten registration
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child, PA Promise for Children Month, or Kid’s Fair events
- Organize 3-4 yearly meetings which include early learning providers and school district personnel
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings
- Assist with developing joint community transition plans
- Develop and support creation of year long transition activities
- Create and distribute a survey to gather information from early childhood education teachers, Kindergarten teachers, directors and principals about ways to be involved
- Schedule a special event or speaker for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families
- Prepare transition toolkits for collaborative transition teams and provide copies of new information, such as books, research articles and activities, as available
- Encourage local stakeholders to build a lending library for use by families or sending and receiving staff
- Become involved with your Local Education and Resource Network (LEARN) Team.
- Endorse business practices and supports of early learning programs and school, such as donations and flex time for families to attend programs and events