

Section: Overview of Transition

Transition to school is one of the most important steps in a young child's life. Children must learn to navigate academic, behavioral and social expectations that might be different from the expectations at home or in the early learning setting. Parents might feel discomfort and fear about sending their child into this new experience. Well planned, collaborative transition models build trust and relationships among children, families, teachers and the school community. Systematic strategies and common understanding of terms and approaches among stakeholders can increase the success of transition practices.

Robert Pianta and others at the National Center Early Development and Learning (NCEDL) describe an effective approach to enhancing children's transition into Kindergarten. This well-researched method provides a network of "social and information linkages that support children and families during the transition to school" (p.ix, Pianta and Kraft-Sayre, 2003). Effective transition plans should not be a one size fits all approach, but rather tailored to the needs of the individual communities.

The following documents provide information about the importance of support and basic steps:

- ★ **Transition Basic Steps:** Suggestions of effective strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Rubric (Sending School) Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling – Best Practice Rubric (Receiving School) Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Action Plan-Sending**
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Action Plan- Receiving**
- ★ **How to use the Pennsylvania Department of Education Standards Aligned System website:** Directions on how to create an account and access PDESAS website.
- ★ **Calendar of Events:** A year-round calendar of suggested activities to promote and support transition into a formal school setting
- ★ **Components of a Successful Transition:** Adapted from information from the National Head Start Association, this information sheet provides components of a successful transition, as well as activities found in successful programs to assist children and their families.
- ★ **Transition, What it is and Why it's important:** Adapted from information from the National Head Start Association, this information sheet provides a definition of transition and ways children, families, early learning providers and schools can benefit from successful transitions.
- ★ **Professional Development Event Templates:** Customizable templates to announce and promote upcoming professional development events for staff.
- ★ **[Enhancing the Transition to Kindergarten, Linking Children, Families and Schools](#) (Natl. Center for Early Development and Learning Kindergarten Transition Studies):** An overview of the NCEDL Kindergarten Transition project listing specific

For additional resources, see the OCDEL Transition to Formal Schooling Toolkit.