

EMERGING MODELS FOR COLLABORATION

EXPANDED LEARNING AND UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The strongest expanded learning programs rely on robust partnerships between local education agencies (LEAs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to plan and facilitate programming. These partnerships are especially critical to serve all four-year-old students who need or want full-day, full-year care.

As LEAs find ways to offer programs to their youngest learners, various models using Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) funds to serve Transitional Kindergarten students are beginning to emerge throughout the state. The following models of collaboration were gathered through interviews with LEAs and CBOs operating in small and large school districts in a mix of rural and suburban areas.

EXAMPLE 1: LEA-Operated, Afternoon ELO-P

TK students served by ELO-P: under 25
Facilities used by expanded learning: on school campus, in kindergarten classrooms

Expanded learning staff: district employees
Expanded learning hours: 12pm - 6pm



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEA created an **earn and learn training program** for high school students to participate in a variety of training, shadowing other staff leadership and on-the-job training before they lead and facilitate activities for students in expanded learning.



PROGRAM EXPANSION

LEA offered fee-for-service programs prior to ELO-P. They **now also offer free programming at three schools with ELO-P funding.**

SAMPLE SCHEDULE	
12:05 PM	TK pick-up and sign into expanded learning program
12:15 - 12:30 PM	Wash hands / restroom
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Afternoon meeting: message board, social-emotional learning time
1:15 - 2:00 PM	Academic enrichment: Learning through Literacy Curriculum
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Outdoor play opportunities / 30Fit
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Transition inside: wash hands / restroom
2:45 - 3:15 PM	Clubs: group project opportunities (fine arts, recreation, fitness, etc.)
3:15 - 3:30 PM	Clean up
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Rest / meditation / breathing
3:45 - 4:45 PM	Enrichment centers (dramatic play, block area, science, reading, art area)
4:45 - 5:00 PM	Clean up / pack up

EXAMPLE 2: LEA-CBO Partnership, Staggered ELO-P

TK students served by ELO-P: approximately 50
Facilities used by expanded learning: on school campus, in preschool classrooms, kindergarten classrooms, or classrooms dedicated to expanded learning

Expanded learning staff: CBO employees
Expanded learning hours: 7am - 6pm in conjunction with staggered AM and PM TK classes



SCHEDULE MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS

LEA offers ELO-P from 7am to 6pm, which they **combine with separate morning and afternoon TK cohorts** (see sample schedule below).



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

LEA uses ELO-P funds to **hire parent liaisons** to help those who speak a language other than English enroll their children in the program.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE WITH STAGGERED MORNING AND AFTERNOON TK AND ELO-P CLASSES



7:00 - 8:00 AM

ELO-P Before-school program all together



8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

TK Classroom

Group A



ELO-P Room

Group B



11:40 AM - 2:30 PM

Group B



Group A



2:30 - 6:00 PM

ELO-P Afterschool program all together



Group A:

TK AM, ELO-P PM



Group B:

ELO-P AM, TK PM

On early release days, all TK students follow Group A schedule.

EXAMPLE 3: Large CBO Partners with Multiple LEAs

TK students served by ELO-P: 150-500

Facilities used by expanded learning: on school campus, in preschool classrooms, childcare classrooms, kindergarten classrooms, or classrooms dedicated to expanded learning

Expanded learning staff: CBO employees

Expanded learning hours: Schedules vary across districts (could be 7am-6pm, 12-6pm, or 2-6pm)



FAIR COMPENSATION

CBO hires staff that are Title V compliant to serve preschool and TK at some sites for expanded learning. Staff are **compensated the same regardless of their qualifications** to work with different age groups.



SCHEDULE MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS

CBO serves TK students in four school districts, **offering multiple programs that operate between 7am - 6pm**, which allows students to attend before and afterschool programming. By offering several different programming options with varying hours of operation, the CBO can serve the specific needs of each community.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CBO requires all staff to have CPR certification and offers new staff a **paid two-day intensive onboarding and ongoing professional development** for their expanded learning staff who serve students across 35 school sites. Topics include:

- Classroom Management for Early Learners
- Structure for Success
- Behavior and Restorative Management
- STEAM for Early Learners
- Inspiration Station/Tinkering and Learning Centers
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Developmental Milestones for Expanded Learning

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

2:00 - 2:30 PM	TK / K sign-in at expanded learning program and supper
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Restroom break / Transition to classroom
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Circle time
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Music and movement
3:30 - 4:15 PM	Learning centers
4:15 - 5:00 PM	Enrichment time
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Tinker time and student sign-outs

COMMON CONSIDERATIONS FOR COORDINATING TK AND ELO-P



STAFFING

School districts can implement programming using staff that they hire directly or by contracting with community-based organizations (CBOs). A range of qualifications are used.

Some districts have changed the qualification requirements for staff who work in their expanded learning programs, from meeting the instructional aide requirements to using a separate job classification for expanded learning staff.

When LEAs contract with CBOs, the CBOs hire the staff who work in the expanded learning programs. CBOs typically provide training to give their staff the necessary skills to work with early learners in the expanded learning environment.

Common requirements for staff include:

- 48 college credits
- Associate's Degree in Child Development or a related field
- Pass the No Child Left Behind exam
- Achieve the same qualifications for an instructional aide
- Previous work experience with students in an academic or recreational setting

All staff hired by either an LEA or a CBO are required to pass a Department of Justice background check and complete sexual harassment and mandated reporter trainings.



FACILITIES

Facilities have proven to be one of the most challenging aspects of implementing TK in schools and expanded learning programs. LEAs and CBOs are finding success using TK classrooms, kindergarten classrooms, other classrooms on campus that have been transformed into TK-appropriate spaces with furniture that is the correct height, developmentally appropriate materials, and restrooms that are available for only TK students.

Some programs operate out of a licensed facility and although they don't need a license to serve TK students, they must maintain their license until June 2024 if they already have one.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Programs serving TK students are required to be accessible for at least nine hours per day, which includes the hours that students are in school during the day. Some programs offer a before-school program in addition to afterschool programs. When school is not in session, like during the summer, programs are required to offer access to programming for 30 days, at least nine hours per day.

ELO-P GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: All programs serving TK students in expanded learning using ELO-P funds are required to have a 1 to 10 ratio, offer nutritious meals for all students, and LEAs are responsible for collecting and responding to incident reports submitted by program leaders. Programs must offer priority enrollment to students experiencing homelessness, foster children, and students who are English language learners. After these students are served, they can enroll other students who want or need the program.

ELO-P funds are very flexible. It is important for LEAs and CBOs to form partnerships to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve.

LEARN HOW

Contact us: Monik Vega, Senior Program Manager,
Partnership for Children & Youth at monik@partnerforchildren.org

