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Improving Kindergarten Transitions to Support School Readiness

A District Leaders Peer Learning Community Conversation

Highlights from the Conversation

Challenges- Districts mentioned the following challenges related to kindergarten transitions:

- Identifying ongoing funding and sustaining transition practices.
- Lack of clarity on what is the district's responsibility vs. early learning providers' responsibility.
- Reaching families that did not attend early learning programs and have not engaged in traditional kindergarten transition activities.

Strategies- Districts shared the following strategies for addressing transition challenges:

- Invite students and families to the school for a "family connection meeting"
 - Helps to get to know the family, rather than focusing only on having the family get to know the school.
- Establish relationships with child care providers, including home-based providers, to establish supports, including:
 - Shared curriculum that may be selected in partnership with child care providers;
 - Training for providers on curriculum use; and,
 - Home visits with providers to provide coaching and get to know children and families.
- Bring registration and transition activities to families:
 - Visit families in their homes to help them fill out enrollment forms.
 - Consider using "parent ambassadors" who already have relationships with families.
 - Host registration events in community spaces outside of the school.

Resources- Districts shared the following resources on kindergarten transitions:

- WaKIDS: <http://www.k12.wa.us/wakids/>
- [Make a Difference: A Guidebook for Person-Centered Direct Support](#)

Questions- Districts had the following questions about kindergarten transitions:

- Why are parents waiting to engage with the schools even when transition activities are offered? What kind of incentives should be provided to get them engaged?
- What is the value in working collaboratively on kindergarten transitions for both early learning providers and districts?
- What are some funding sources for kindergarten transitions that can support sustainability?
- What is the role of principals in owning and supporting kindergarten transition practices?

To respond to these questions or share your own challenges and strategies, join our [online community](#) for district leaders.