

Essential questions to ask about Pre-K: Fillable Discussion Guide

This section requires reflection and deeper consideration regarding Pre-K in Indiana Schools. Consider using this as a discussion guide and brainstorming with colleagues.

What are the needs of our community? What do data sources like [ELAC County Dashboard](#), [IYI Kids Count Databook](#), or [OECOSL's Carefinder Search \(to learn where programs are already open\)](#) say about our community?

Why is Pre-K needed? Looking at your Kindergarten Data, where and how could Pre-K help?

What other Pre-K services are offered? Is there a Head Start we can partner with? Is there a developmental preschool we can expand? Is there a Title I funded preschool we can expand and combine?

Who are all the Pre-K stakeholders? How have all Pre-K stakeholders been engaged in the process of creating/ expanding Pre-K service?

Have we considered all available funding options? What might be our per child cost? Will we charge families any fees? Will we use a sliding scale based on income? What is the [CCDF Market Rate](#) for our county, meaning what will be the reimbursement rate for CCDF/OMW vouchers? According to data from question one, what percentage of children birth to five are living in poverty in our county? Would it be beneficial for us to complete the processes to be eligible to accept State CCDF or OMW vouchers/funds?

According to [OECOSL's Child Care Finder](#), how many Level 3 and 4 Paths to QUALITY™ providers are currently operating in our county? Can we support building access to high-quality programs by having a Level 3 or 4 program at our school(s)?

What are the differences in requirements around different funding options, ie accepting CCDF vouchers vs. OMW vouchers where available, and differences in Levels 3 and 4 in Paths to QUALITY™? (Links to these requirements are noted in the guidebook.) How do these differences affect a school's ability and desire to pursue these different levels of requirements?

How could Technical Assistance with IDOE staff support us?

How could an LLEP Consultant support us in completing LLEP status?

How could Technical Assistance with SPARK Learning Lab coaches in the field support us?

What considerations are needed in order to build a quality program?

What early learning curriculum will we adopt? Is it aligned to the [IDOE Early Learning Foundations](#)? Is it evidence-based? Is it developmentally appropriate for preschoolers? How does it rate on the [Consumer Report](#)?

Who will lead the Preschool program? What education and experience do they need?