

NEWPORT TRI-PARTY EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This Tri-Party Early Learning Partnership Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and among Newport Independent Schools ("Newport"), Learning Grove ("Learning Grove"), and EducateNKY ("EducateNKY") (collectively, the "Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Newport Independent Schools, the City of Newport, EducateNKY, and community partners have established Read Ready Newport as a place-based early learning initiative focused on strengthening early childhood development, literacy, family partnership, and kindergarten readiness for children from birth through age five;

WHEREAS, Newport Independent Schools has formally endorsed the goals of Read Ready Newport and committed to working collaboratively with families, early childhood providers, and community partners to improve outcomes for young children;

WHEREAS, the Parties believe that children benefit when schools, families, childcare providers, and community partners work together as part of a coordinated early learning ecosystem that supports children's development from birth through kindergarten entry;

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize that improving kindergarten readiness requires more than preschool enrollment alone and that stronger alignment among public preschool, childcare services, family supports, and community resources can create a more seamless and effective experience for children and families;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to establish a demonstration partnership that aligns Newport Independent Schools' public preschool program with Learning Grove's full-day, year-round childcare services in order to strengthen kindergarten readiness, ensure more children arrive at kindergarten ready to thrive, and generate lessons that may inform future early learning efforts in Northern Kentucky and the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and commitments contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to advance the goals of Read Ready Newport by creating a coordinated early learning partnership among Newport Independent Schools, Learning Grove, and EducateNKY.

Through this partnership, the Parties seek to create a seamless experience for children and families by aligning public preschool and full-day, year-round childcare services at Newport Primary School. The Parties believe that stronger coordination among schools, childcare providers, families, and community partners can improve kindergarten readiness, strengthen transitions into school, and support long-term student success.

The Parties further intend for this partnership to serve as a demonstration project that generates data, lessons learned, and practical experience regarding the alignment of public preschool and childcare systems. Those lessons will be used to inform future efforts to strengthen early learning opportunities in Newport, throughout Northern Kentucky, and across the Commonwealth.

II. Responsibilities of the Parties

A. Learning Grove

Learning Grove agrees to:

1. Establish and operate a full-day, year-round childcare program at Newport Primary School beginning with the 2026-27 school year.
2. Provide enrollment preference to Newport preschool students and families, subject to program capacity and applicable requirements.
3. Operate the program for a minimum period of three (3) years, subject to the terms of this Agreement.
4. Maintain all licenses, certifications, insurance coverage, and regulatory compliance required to operate the program.
5. Participate in evaluation and continuous improvement activities associated with the partnership.

B. Newport Independent Schools

Newport agrees to:

1. Provide access to facilities at Newport Primary School at no cost to Learning Grove pursuant to a separate operating agreement between Newport and Learning Grove.
2. Support coordination between Newport's public preschool program and Learning Grove's childcare services.
3. Participate in evaluation and continuous improvement activities associated with the partnership.
4. Execute data-sharing agreements reasonably necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership.
5. Participate in the WillBridge early learning to kindergarten data-sharing pilot, subject to mutually agreed data-sharing and governance agreements that preserve the District's ownership of its data and its independent authority over future participation in any regional data-sharing initiative.
6. Share student-level data, consistent with applicable federal and state law, necessary to evaluate kindergarten readiness, preschool participation, and longer-term educational outcomes associated with participating students.

C. EducateNKY

EducateNKY agrees to:

1. Provide a one-time investment of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000), consisting of:
 - Fifty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000) in operating support; and
 - Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) in capital support for facility improvements, equipment, or other startup expenses.
2. Support student and family recruitment efforts intended to maximize participation in Newport's preschool program and Learning Grove's childcare program.
3. Provide technical assistance, partnership coordination, and evaluation support as mutually agreed by the Parties.
4. Support documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from the partnership for the benefit of Read Ready Newport and other early learning initiatives.

III. Evaluation and Data

The Parties acknowledge that evaluation and continuous improvement are central purposes of this partnership.

The Parties agree to cooperate in collecting, sharing, and reviewing information necessary to assess:

- Program participation and enrollment;
- Kindergarten readiness outcomes;
- Preschool participation and persistence;
- Family engagement and utilization;
- Student transition into kindergarten;
- Longer-term student outcomes; and
- Other indicators mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

The Parties shall execute any additional data-sharing agreements necessary to comply with applicable federal and state privacy laws.

The Parties agree to meet periodically, but no less than annually, to review progress, evaluate outcomes, and identify opportunities for improvement.

IV. Term

This Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2029, unless terminated earlier pursuant to this Agreement.

V. Repayment Obligation

In consideration of EducateNKY's upfront investment and the Parties' shared intent to establish a sustainable demonstration model, Learning Grove agrees to operate the program for the duration of the three-year term.

If Learning Grove does not operate the program during the 2027-28 school year, Learning Grove shall repay Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to EducateNKY.

If Learning Grove operates the program during the 2027-28 school year but does not operate the program during the 2028-29 school year, Learning Grove shall repay Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to EducateNKY.

No repayment obligation shall apply if Learning Grove operates the program during the 2028-29 school year.

Prior to the conclusion of the first year of operation, the Parties shall meet and confer regarding the implementation and sustainability of the program, including enrollment, finances, and any modifications to this Agreement that the Parties may

mutually agree are necessary to support the program's continued success. Any modification to this Agreement shall be in writing and executed by all Parties.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Learning Grove shall not be required to repay any start-up funds if, despite good-faith implementation of mutually agreed-upon recruitment and Child Find activities, enrollment remains below twelve (12) full-time children as of March 1, 2028, and the Parties mutually determine that enrollment demand is insufficient to support the program's continued operation on a financially sustainable basis.

The repayment provisions of this section shall also not apply in the event of force majeure, material breach of this Agreement by another Party, documented unforeseen circumstances beyond Learning Grove's reasonable control that materially impair the viability of the program, or other circumstances mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties.

VI. Miscellaneous

This Agreement represents the understanding of the Parties regarding the purposes and commitments described herein and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the collaborative nature of the partnership.

Any amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by all Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the dates set forth below.

Newport Independent Schools

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Learning Grove

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EducateNKY

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____