

SOUTHGATE TRI-PARTY EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This Tri-Party Early Learning Partnership Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and among Southgate Independent Schools ("Southgate"), Ms. Crystal's Preschool & Childcare, LLC ("Ms. Crystal's"), and EducateNKY ("EducateNKY") (collectively, the "Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Southgate Independent Schools, the City of Southgate, EducateNKY, and community partners have established Read Ready Southgate 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, Southgate Independent Schools has formally endorsed the goals of Read Ready Southgate 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 recognize that providing high-quality, full-day childcare aligned with public preschool and available throughout the year creates significant educational value for Southgate students by strengthening kindergarten readiness and supporting student success throughout their subsequent years of schooling;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to establish a demonstration partnership that aligns Southgate Independent Schools' public preschool program with Ms. Crystal'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, contributions, and commitments contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to advance the goals of Read Ready Southgate by creating a coordinated early learning partnership among Southgate Independent Schools, Ms. Crystal's Preschool & Childcare, LLC, 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 Southgate Public 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 Southgate, throughout Northern Kentucky, and across the Commonwealth.

II. Responsibilities of the Parties

A. Ms. Crystal's Preschool & Childcare, LLC

Ms. Crystal's agrees to:

1. Establish and operate a full-day childcare program at Southgate Public School no later than September 30 of the 2026-27 school year.
2. Operate the program five (5) days per week for a minimum of forty-eight (48) weeks per year, including summer operations, subject to applicable licensing requirements and mutually agreed scheduling considerations.
3. Provide enrollment preference to Southgate preschool students and families, subject to program capacity and applicable requirements.
4. Operate the program through June 30, 2029, subject to the terms of this Agreement.
5. Obtain and maintain all licenses, certifications, insurance coverage, and regulatory compliance required to operate the program.
6. Take the steps reasonably necessary to participate in Kentucky's childcare quality rating system and work toward achieving a quality rating of three (3) stars or higher.

7. Participate in evaluation and continuous improvement activities associated with the partnership.

B. Southgate Independent Schools

Southgate agrees to:

1. Provide access to appropriate facilities at Southgate Public School at no cost to Ms. Crystal's, pursuant to a separate operating agreement between Southgate and Ms. Crystal's. The Parties acknowledge that this facility contribution is provided in consideration of the substantial educational value created by an on-site, full-day childcare program operating five days per week throughout the year and aligned with Southgate's public preschool program. In particular, the partnership is intended to increase kindergarten readiness among children participating in both childcare and public preschool, thereby improving student outcomes as children enter Southgate Public School and providing direct educational and financial value to the District throughout their subsequent years of enrollment.
2. Support coordination between Southgate's public preschool program and Ms. Crystal's childcare services to create a more seamless early learning experience for participating children and families.
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.
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 total investment of up to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) over the term of this Agreement, consisting of:
 - o **Year One Operating Support:** Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to Ms. Crystal's, with Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) payable upon commencement of program operations and Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) payable five months thereafter, conditioned upon the program remaining operational and in compliance with applicable licensing requirements.

- **Year Two Operating Support:** Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to Ms. Crystal's during the 2027-28 school year, conditioned upon continued operation of the program, maintenance of required licensure, and good-faith progress toward participation in Kentucky's childcare quality rating system.
 - **Quality Incentive:** Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to Ms. Crystal's upon achieving a Kentucky childcare quality rating of three (3) stars or higher during the term of this Agreement.
 - **Data-Sharing Implementation Support:** Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to Southgate Independent Schools to support implementation of data sharing and the District's participation in the WillBridge early learning to kindergarten data-sharing pilot.
2. Support student and family recruitment efforts intended to maximize participation in Southgate's preschool program and Ms. Crystal'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 Southgate 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 September 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2029, unless terminated earlier pursuant to this Agreement.

V. Funding and Continued Operation

The Parties acknowledge that EducateNKY's financial commitment under this Agreement is intended to support the establishment, quality improvement, and evaluation of a sustainable early learning model at Southgate Public School.

Payments identified in Section II.C are contingent upon the applicable conditions described therein. If Ms. Crystal's ceases operation of the program or fails to maintain the licensure required to operate the program, EducateNKY shall have no obligation to make subsequent payments that have not yet become due.

Prior to the conclusion of each year of operation, the Parties shall meet and confer regarding the implementation and sustainability of the program, including enrollment, program quality, finances, and any modifications to this Agreement that the Parties may mutually agree are necessary to support the program's continued success.

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.

Southgate Independent Schools

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Ms. Crystal's Preschool & Childcare, LLC

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

EducateNKY

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____