

**Learning Community Coordinating Council
Meeting Agenda**

May 21, 2026 - 6:00 PM

Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 N 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110

Learning Community Vision: *That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstance.*

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken, are as follows: (Items do not have to be taken in the same order as listed.)

1. **Opening the Meeting:**
 - 1.a. **Call to order:** The regular meeting of the Learning Community Coordinating Council is called to order on _____, at ___ p.m.
 - 1.b. **Council Mission Statement:** Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share, and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.
 - 1.c. **Public Notice and Compliance Nebraska Open Meetings Law:** Public Notice was published in The Daily Record on May 15, 2026 and on the Learning Community Website.
 - 1.d. **Council Roll Call:**
 - 1.e. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Please stand and face the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comment: Are there any public comments?**

3. **Good News Report! LCCSO**

4. **Reports:**

- 4.a. Chair Report:
- 4.b. CEO Report
- 4.c. Treasurer Report:
- 4.d. Legal Counsel:
- 4.e. Foundation:

5. **Consent Agenda:**

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

5.a. Minutes of the April, meeting of the Council.

5.b. Treasurer's Report – May

5.c.

- a. **Action Item:** Upon the recommendation of the ELD Committee, a motion is recommended authorizing the CEO to enter ELC programming agreement with Completely Kids/CK Field Club for FY 2026–2027 in the amount of \$40,800.00

5.d.

- b. **Action Item:** Upon the recommendation of the Achievement Sub council 1, a motion is recommended authorizing the CEO to enter ELC programming agreement with DC West Community Schools, District Initiatives 1.0 – Extended Learning for FY26-27 at \$7,558.26.

5.e.

- c. **Action Item:** Upon the recommendation of the ELD committee a motion is recommended to the coordinating council, authorizing the CEO to enter

ELC programming agreement with MMI, Program Evaluation Budget
Justification for FY26-27 at \$697,566.00

- 5.f. **a. Action Item:** Upon the recommendation of the Achievement Sub council 6, a motion is recommended, authorizing the CEO to enter ELC programming agreement with Papillion La Vista Community Schools, District Initiatives 1.0 – Jumpstart to KDG for FY26-27 at \$116,640.62 per school year
- 5.g. **Action Item:** Upon the recommendation of the Achievement Sub council 1, a motion is recommended, authorizing the CEO to enter ELC programming agreement with Elkhorn Public Schools, District Initiatives 1.0 – Extended Learning for FY26-27 at \$40,202.45 per school year.
6. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - 6.a. Elementary, Learning, and Diversity (ELD) subcommittee:
 - 6.b. Budget, Finance & Audit Subcommittee:
 - 6.c. Legislative and Policy subcommittee:
 - 6.d. Administration and Personnel subcommittee:
7. **Programming Update:**
 - 7.a. Center Updates
 - 7.a.i. LCCSO Update
 - 7.a.ii. LCCNO Update
 - 7.b. District Updates:
 - b. Bennington
 - c. D2 Center
 - d. Elkhorn
 - 7.c. MMI Budget Presentation
8. **New Business:**
9. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at: _____**
10. **Next Meeting - June 18, 2026**

***Executive/Closed Sessions:** If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the council will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

****Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Council. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

05/20/2026

CEO Monthly Report — May

Executive Summary

The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties achieved notable recognition this month, advanced several programmatic initiatives, and continued progress on organizational priorities including the executive director's search and the financial audit. Community partnerships and outreach efforts expanded, and our direct-service programs marked important milestones.

1. Key Achievements and Updates

Omaha Choice Awards, Adult Education, 2nd Place

- The Learning Community earned second place in the Adult Education category of the Omaha Choice Awards. This public recognition highlights the quality and impact of our adult programming—particularly in areas of workforce readiness, basic skills, and English language learning—and reinforces our reputation among community stakeholders. The award offers visibility that we will leverage in upcoming outreach, fundraising, and partnership conversations.

2. Executive Director Search

- The search for an Executive Director remains active. We received over 60 applications during the initial recruitment phase, demonstrating significant interest in the role. After reviewing the applicant pool, the search has been reopened to broaden candidate diversity and ensure we identify the best leadership fit for our strategic priorities. The vacancy is currently posted on multiple job boards and professional networks; recruitment and candidate screening are ongoing.

3. Financial Audit

- The annual audit is in progress. Andrew (Audit Lead) continues to coordinate with our external auditors to complete fieldwork and documentation. Based on current timelines, Andrew anticipates the audit will be finalized by July. We will circulate the final audit report and any management letter items to the Council upon completion and will schedule a review if needed.

4. Community Events and Program Milestones

- Cinco de Mayo Parade: Our participation in the Cinco de Mayo Parade was successful in terms of community engagement and visibility. While overall parade attendance was lower than last year, the event provided valuable

402-505-4301

1612 North 24th St
Omaha, NE 68110

Chief Executive Officer
Gerald M. Kuhn, II

**COORDINATING
COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Chair
Sharnelle Shelton
Vice Chair
Raquel Dixon Rodriguez
Secretary
Tim Hall
Treasurer
Jason Taylor

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Achievement Subcouncil 1
David Preston, Jr
Cindy Johnson

Achievement Subcouncil 2
Carol Hahn
Sharnelle Shelton

Achievement Subcouncil 3
Mark Hoeger
Warren Whitted, Jr

Achievement Subcouncil 4
Raquel Dixon Rodriguez
Stephen Bloom

Achievement Subcouncil 5
Douglas Brady
Tonya Ward

Achievement Subcouncil 6
Jason Taylor
Tim Hall

MISSION

*Together with school districts
and community organizations
as partners, we demonstrate,
share and implement more
effective practices to
measurably improve
educational outcomes for
children and families in
poverty*

VISION

*That all children within the
Learning Community achieve
academic success without
regard to social or economic
circumstance.*

LearningCommunityDS.org

outreach opportunities and strengthened our ties with participating community organizations.

- Little Lions Zoo Program Graduation: We celebrated the inaugural graduation for the Little Lions Zoo program. This successful pilot demonstrated program efficacy and family engagement; we plan to enroll children from our cohort in the program again next year and will evaluate outcomes to inform expansion.
- South Center Graduation: A major graduation event was held at our South Center, celebrating numerous participants who completed programs this period. The ceremony underscored program retention and successful participant outcomes and provides testimonial material for communications and funder reporting.

5. Partnerships and Outreach

- Senator Juarez — Facility Tour: Senator Juarez has expressed interest in touring the Learning Community to learn more about our programs and community impact. We are coordinating possible dates with the Senator's office and will invite Council members to attend once the tour is scheduled. This visit represents an opportunity to strengthen legislative relationships and highlight program needs and successes.
- Charles Drew Health Center Collaboration: Initial discussions have begun with Charles Drew Health Center to formalize a collaboration in North Omaha. Under the proposed arrangement, our North Omaha staff would conduct participant recruitment at the health center three days per week, improving access and referral pathways for families who could benefit from our programs.
- Associated Bank — Potential Foundation Support: Associated Bank has indicated interest in supporting our foundation through philanthropic funding. We are exploring partnership models and funding priorities with bank representatives to determine the best alignment with our programmatic and capacity-building needs.

Next Steps and Requests for the Council

- Audit Completion: Expect the final audit by July. I will distribute the audit report and any recommended action items upon receipt.
- Executive Director Recruitment: Continue to support outreach and candidate referrals. I will present a recommended slate of finalists to the Council when available.
- Senator Juarez Tour: I will notify Council members of confirmed dates and request volunteers to participate in the tour.
- Partnership Development: I will provide progress updates on the Charles Drew Health Center recruitment plan and Associated Bank discussions and will request Council input on partnership strategies as needed.

Gerald "Mike" Kuhn II- CEO

Gerald Kuhn

Learning Community Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda

April 16, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

1612 North 24th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68110

Learning Community Vision: *That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstances.*

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken, are as follows: **

1. **Opening the Meeting:**

- a. **Call to order:** The regular meeting of the Learning Community Coordinating Council is called to order on April 16, 2026, at __6:03__ p.m.
- b. **Council Mission Statement:** Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share, and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.
- c. **Public Notice and Compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law:** Public Notice was published in The Daily Record on April 10, 2026 and on the Learning Community Website.
- d. **Council Roll Call:** Present: 12 Excused: Absent: Quorum:
- e. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Please stand and face the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comment:** Are there any public comments? N/A

3. **Reports:**

1. **Good News Report:** Participant Taylor spoke about graduating whispering roots. She stated that her time here at the center was very welcoming and she loves the environment for herself and her baby. The trauma & resilience was an eye opener. The parent course was very eye-opening for her.
2. **Chair Report:** Thanked everyone for the attendance. Publicly thanked Nayeli for all of her service.
3. **CEO Report:** presented Nayeli with an recognition award. Special thanks to legislation. The Learning community has officially passed LB924. 90% there we are

waiting for the governor's signature. Andrew has a goal to be done with audit by July. Spoke about potential partnership with Laurenztin gardens. Spoke about literacy program (series) with home team auto sales. The mayor will come and speak at the graduation held here at the learning community on April 28th.

4. **Treasurer Report:** everything is in-line with the budget.
5. **Legal Counsel:** N/A
6. **Foundation:** N/A

4. **Consent Agenda:**

Unless removed motion from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted in the same motion.

- a. Minutes of February 19 & March 19, 2026, meeting of the Council.
- b. Treasurer's Report – March & April 2026
- c. Approval of the Insurance Renewal Premiums for 2026-2027
- d. Motion to authorize the CEO to enter ELC programming agreements with Omaha Public Schools. The organization is to fund the Intensive Early Childhood Program for \$5,240,897.88 (Y1: \$1,724,762.92; Y2: \$1,736,704.72; Y3: \$1,779,430.24). Summary Sheet (attached) for the FY 2026/2027, 2027/28, 2028/29. Approval is contingent upon Council approval of authorization of the elementary levy and the fiscal year budgets for each of the above fiscal years of the Learning Community.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

First: rodriguez Second: Whitted Jr

Discussion:

Moved to vote: No Abstain

Motion: passed X failed

5. **Subcommittee Reports:**

1. Elementary, Learning, and Diversity (ELD) subcommittee: N/A
2. Budget, Finance, and Audit subcommittee: N/A
3. Legislative and Policy subcommittee: legislation was passed. Now we have to look at how we structure.
4. Administration and Personnel subcommittee: updated everyone that past year they have been working on updating the handbook and they are finally done.

6. **Programming Update:**

1. **Center Updates:** LCCNO & LCCSO
2. **District Updates:**
 - DC West Community Schools
 - Elkhorn Public Schools- N/A
3. **Director of Strategic Initiatives:**
4. **New Business:**

- a. **Policy Approval (Handbook)**- Motion to approve the completion of the review and updates to the Learning Community Employee Handbook subject t as presented, and authorize its implementation effective today.

Motion: To approve the completion of the review and updates.

First: Bloom Second: Rodriguez

Discussion:

Moved to vote: No Abstain

Motion: passed X failed

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at: 7:49pm

Next Meeting – May 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. – Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 North 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110

***Executive/Closed Session:** 7:11 pm

If, during the meeting, a discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the council will conduct a closed meeting per the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

****Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Council. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

UPCOMING LEARNING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

LC Coordinating Council	May 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m. Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 N. 24 th Street, Omaha, NE 68110
Subcouncil #1	TBA
Subcouncil #2	TBA
Subcouncil #3	TBA

Subcouncil #4
Subcouncil #5
Subcouncil #6

TBA
TBA
TBA

HANDOUTS TO ACCOMPANY THIS AGENDA ARE AS FOLLOWS

- CEO report
- Feb & March mins
- Treasure report
- Premium analysis
- Center updates North & South
- Avenue scholars quarterly report
- OPS IEC Sub #2 Proposal
- Presentations from districts

	2025-2026 Budget	4/30/2026	Year to Date Expense	Percentage Year to Date
Rent	\$ 874,000	\$ 67,894	\$ 478,527	54.75%
North Center	\$ 632,000	\$ 47,889	\$ 338,647	53.58%
South Center	\$ 242,000	\$ 20,005	\$ 139,881	57.80%

Research and Evaluation	\$ 762,542	\$ 59,379	\$ 515,896	67.65%
MOEC	\$ 50,000		\$ 25,000	50.00%
MMI	\$ 712,542	\$ 59,379	\$ 490,896	68.89%

Programming				
Parent University	\$ 2,056,785	\$ 168,122	\$ 1,154,264	56.12%
Wages	\$ 1,322,342	\$ 77,372	\$ 782,682	59.19%
Benefits	\$ 359,143	\$ 34,526	\$ 99,139	27.60%
Other	\$ 375,300	\$ 56,224	\$ 272,444	72.59%

ELC Programming	\$ 16,314,056	\$ 2,705,727	\$ 10,936,346	67.04%
ELC Programs (Districts 1.0)	\$ 1,323,376	\$ 192,441	\$ 1,330,888	100.57%
Districts 2.0	\$ 2,719,903	\$ 306,443	\$ 2,480,679	91.20%
District 2.0 carryover	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Avenue Scholars	\$ 1,374,111	\$ 18,523	\$ 320,775	23.34%
Whispering Roots	\$ 114,290	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
D2 Center	\$ 280,000	\$ -	\$ 168,743	60.27%
One World	\$ 3,183,581	\$ 503,338	\$ 2,362,314	74.20%
Superintendents Plan	\$ 3,870,530	\$ 784,674	\$ 1,931,339	49.90%
OPS Early Childhood Partnership (Sub 5)	\$ 1,150,705	\$ 101,412	\$ 890,983	77.43%
OPS Early Childhood Partnership (Sub 2)	\$ 1,797,560	\$ 798,895	\$ 1,439,259	80.07%
Henry Doorly Zoo	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 11,365	22.73%
Workforce Hub (New 2025-2026)	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%

Central Admin	\$ 1,759,607	\$ 238,021	\$ 1,131,185	64.29%
Salaries	\$ 756,847	\$ 51,247	\$ 510,628	67.47%
Benefits	\$ 284,761	\$ 22,868	\$ 82,227	28.88%
Other	\$ 718,000	\$ 163,907	\$ 538,330	74.98%
Marketing/Advertising	\$ 110,000	\$ 9,800	\$ 69,862	63.51%
Legal	\$ 75,000	\$ 23,043	\$ 58,592	78.12%
Insurance	\$ 90,000	\$ 81,701	\$ 81,701	90.78%
Lobbying	\$ 33,000	\$ 5,167	\$ 23,251	70.46%
Other	\$ 300,000	\$ 41,149	\$ 247,008	82.34%
Technology (computers, website, IT)	\$ 80,000	\$ 3,048	\$ 40,916	51.15%
Travel/Conference	\$ 30,000		\$ 17,000	56.67%

Coordinating Council	\$ 60,000	\$ 411	\$ 2,311	3.85%
Travel/Conferences	\$ 15,000	\$ 322	\$ 1,993	13.29%
Daily Record / Advertising	\$ 2,000	\$ 89	\$ 229	11.45%
Contracted Services	\$ 38,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Misc	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 89	1.78%

Total Expense	\$ 21,826,990	\$ 3,239,554	\$ 13,064,265	59.85%
----------------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	--------

Revenue				
Interest	\$ 500,000	\$ 48,290	\$ 380,411	76.08%
Elementary Learning Center	\$ 12,891,773	\$ 3,588,148	\$ 6,828,548	52.97%
Capital Projects	\$ 1,281,324	\$ 356,423	\$ 678,125	52.92%
General Funds	\$ 1,247,000	\$ 77,796	\$ 936,778	75.12%
NCFL Grant - PU	\$ 30,000		\$ 29,900	99.67%
Total Revenue	\$ 15,950,097	\$ 4,070,657	\$ 8,853,762	55.51%

YTD Percentage

66.67%

LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTH OMAHA

4/6/26-5/8/26

General Info

- LCCSO children performed with the Omaha Symphony during their Sprouts and the Symphony final concert for the year (through Omaha Conservatory of Music).
- All daytime classes took field trips to the South Omaha Public Library to obtain library cards and explore all of the resources.
- ESL Teachers created a band and named themselves "Maddie and the Present Perfects", who performed at the daytime Annual Family Celebration.
- Celebrated the Week of the Young Child with fun daily activities in the Child Learning classrooms.
- LCCSO staff attended Metro Community College's GED Graduation to cheer on our twelve graduates.
- Participants were offered opportunities to share their opinions about the program in focus groups.
- LCCSO hosted the annual celebration for the daytime program (morning and afternoon classes), with the largest-ever turnout.
- Bancroft Family Learning program recruited at the Bancroft Family Zoo night, Bancroft Family Fun Night.
- Planning move from Bancroft to Castelar Elementary for the summer due to building renovations.
- Submitted two proposals to present on the program at the National Families Learning Conference.
- Met with Metro STEM Department, Lauritzen Gardens, and Canopy South staff about future partnership
- Celebrated Child Learning Providers for Childcare Provider Day, Teachers for Teacher Appreciation Day, and the Program Support team for Administrative Professionals Day.
- 138 packages of diapers were distributed for 69 children through the Nebraska Diaper Bank partnership.

Center Programming

The LCCSO offers programming Monday – Thursday from 9 am-12 pm, 12:45 pm - 3:45 pm, and from 5 pm-8 pm. Friday programming is from 9 am-12 pm and 12:45 pm-3:45 pm. Saturday programming is offered at least once a month and lasts between two to six hours.

- Interactive Parent/Child Programming
 - Prime Time Family Reading Program through NE Humanities
 - Ready to Learn Kindergarten Readiness program
 - Home visits are scheduled approximately every three to four weeks
 - College Prep for Families program with UNO
 - Parent/child violin classes through Omaha Conservatory of Music (4 groups)
 - Lil' Rosie's Musical Storytime for Families (Rose Theater)
- Parent Programming
 - ESL for Parents: 15 cohorts
 - GED for Parents: 3 cohorts
 - Parent Workshops included:
 - Mind in the Making (consultant through ESU 3)
 - Intro to Finances (Lending Link)
 - Community Café (LCCSO participants hired by The BRIDGE) -
 - Bienvenidos mental health program (UNMC staff)
 - Love & Logic (LCCSO staff)
 - Circle of Security (LCCSO staff and Child Saving Institute) -
 - Nurturing Parenting (LCCSO staff)
 - NCFL's Activate Parent Leadership program (LCCSO staff)
 - Workforce Development (LCCSO staff)

- Digital Literacy classes (LCCSO staff) –
 - Child Safety Series (Project Harmony)
 - Civics and Literacy (LCCSO staff)
 - OneWorld Patient Leadership Group (OW senior leader)
- Child Learning programming during parent classes
 - Regular programming for children aged 0-5
 - Lil’ Rosies Storytime through the Rose Theater twice a month in both toddlers and preschool classrooms
 - Opera Omaha Storytime and child-focused programming
- Community Childcare training/coaching for South Omaha childcare providers
 - 16 childcare providers receiving weekday coaching and Saturday trainings/collaboration meetings

Staff Training

- OneWorld Leadership Growth Series (LCCSO management)
- OneWorld Leadership Academy Graduation (Family Engagement manager)
- Conscious Discipline trainings (newer staff)
- Child Development Associate in process (LCCSO Program Manager)
- CPR/First Aid/AED (Instructional Manager)
- Facilitating Attuned Interactions training (5 Navigators)
- Home Visit Rating Scales Training completion (Family Engagement Manager)

Success Stories

Story #1

I think our success story this month was the family celebration for our daytime program. It was so amazing to see everyone graduate, but especially the kiddos. Some of the kiddos really did come to us as infants, and we’ve had the honor and privilege of supporting their growth, alongside their families, in preparing them for kindergarten and beyond. Pictured is Sofia, who started as an infant and is now ready to go to Kindergarten at Gilder Elementary in the Fall of 2026.

Submitted by Carolina Ibarra-Nielsen, Program Manager



Story #2

Ashley, a mother of three, is participating in Prime Time, a bilingual family reading program held at Bancroft Elementary. She and her husband, both English speakers, joined because they love reading with their children and appreciate the idea of exposing them to another language.

Ashley was initially worried about her baby, who had never been in a childcare setting. Since the program is for preschoolers, her baby needed to be in a different classroom. At first, the baby cried, but she soon enjoyed her time with her teacher.

Meanwhile, her school-aged children loved reading and participating in activities, attending every session, and making friends. They were sad when the program ended. Ashley expressed interest in joining other programs if available. She noted that her children were happy, learning, and gaining more books to read at home.

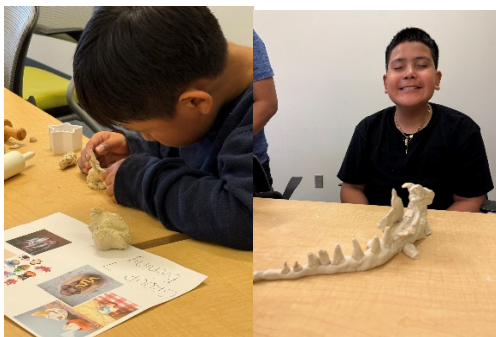
Submitted by Cely Sebastian, Bancroft Program Supervisor



Story #3

A success story that I have is that in the month of April I was able to help my students to bring out their creative side with an activity; the Activity was to create their own mythical creature with clay. Here some examples:

Submitted by Maria Rafael, Child Learning Provider (evening, school-aged kids)



Center Report-LCCNO

April 2026

General Info

- Partnered with Home Team Auto for it's Financial Literacy Class. Over 40 participants graduated from this class and received \$150.00 gift cards.
- For the week of Spring Break we had a Spring Into Family Fun Camp. 30 plus families participated Monday through Thursday from 9-2. The Camp was focused on STEM. Children's Museum joined us for Bubble Fun, The Bug Guy joined us for Insect Studies, families in engaged in Maker Activities and Scavenger Hunts. It was a fun time for all!-See photos attached to email

Center Programming

- Programming Monday-Thursday from 9 am-12 pm, 12:15 pm - 3:00 pm, & 5:30 pm-8 pm. Friday programming from 9-11 am
- Interactive Parent/Child Programming-Spring into Family Fun (4 days of PACT that included Literacy and STEM activities such as: Bug Guy, Bubbles, Interactive Read Alouds, Bracelet Making, Minute to Win It Games, Arts and Crafts, and more)
- Home visits were scheduled approximately every three to four weeks
- Parent/child violin classes through String Sprouts (3 classrooms per week)

Adult Education Programming

- ESL for Parents: 3 cohorts
- GED for Parents: 1 cohort at Highlander

Parenting Courses

- Parents Know Best
- Prime Time Reading-Preschool
- Prime Time Reading-6-10 years of age
- Child Abuse and Neglect 101
- Trauma and Resilience
- Community Cafe

Adult Workforce Development Programming

- North Star Digital Literacy Class
- Citizenship Class
- Whispering Roots
- Hope Financial Collaborative with Omaha 100

Early Childhood Education Programming

- Teaching of the following 8 objectives for development and learning-social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, math, science/technology, social studies, and the arts, plus English-language acquisition
- Reading with Ms. Shelley every Wednesday
- Literacy Focus on Letters, Colors, Rhyming Words, Beginning Sounds

- Math Focus on 1:1 correspondence, counting to 10 in English and Spanish, Number Recognition, Shapes
- String Sprouts

Staff Training

- Family Engagement Training
- Active Supervision Training
- Safe with You Training
- Mision, Vision, and Creating Shared Values
 - These are the shared values that the LCCNO Staff came up with:
 - We value Empathy
 - We value Relationships
 - We value Stability
 - We value Making a Difference
 - We value Compassion
 - We value Inclusivity
 - We value Reliability
 - We value Advocacy
 - We value Community

Success Stories

Nandi one of our new participants, participated in and graduated from the Parents Know Best Class. When asked about her thoughts on this new parenting class she shared that she learned so much in the class. One thing that stood out to her was that its children are still learning and developing and that they have not yet mastered the skills to control their emotions. That we have to teach that to them. This type of information has helped as a parent and also in my job where I work as a preschool teacher. See photo attached to email.

Bennington
Public Schools
Learning Community
Presentation



May 21, 2026



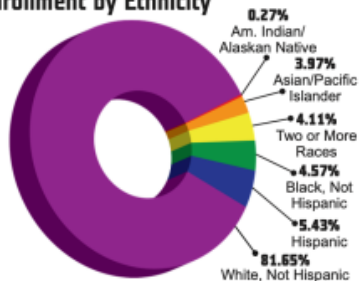
Student Information

4,254

K-12 Students
in Bennington
Public Schools



Enrollment by Ethnicity



Students in Bennington Public Schools are...



High Ability Learners
14.50%



Special Education
16.50%



Free or Reduced Lunch
11.00%



Mobility
1.72%



English Language Learners
1.53%

Note: This data reflects the 2024-25 school year.

Instructional Time Report

Elementary (K-5)	Middle School (6-8)	High School (9-12)
Total Required 1,032 hours	Total Required 1,032 hours	Total Required 1,080 hours
Total Attended 1,074 hours	Total Attended 1,098 hours	Total Attended 1,101 hours

98.33%

Graduation Rate



The Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2025 was held at Badger Stadium, with 235 seniors participating and receiving diplomas from Bennington High School. The graduating class included 35 students who earned Summa Cum Laude academic status with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher, along with 39 students who met at least one criterion for placement on the Academic Wall of Honor, including a GPA of 4.0 or higher, a score of 5 on an AP exam, a score of at least 1360 on the SAT, or a score of at least 30 on the ACT.

Snapshot of Our District



Snapshot of Our District



Early
Childhood
Services

127

**Birth to Three
& Preschool
Students**

BPS provides early childhood services for children from birth to age three and preschool age children who need special education services. Preschool classrooms are 50% students needing special education services and 50% peer models.

Programs Funded by the Learning Community

Preschool Coaching & ECSE Coordination

- Contracted Facilitator from ESU 3 (2.5 days/week)
- Instructional coaching for all preschool staff
- Special education programming support
- Preschool screenings & evaluations
- Birth-5 team collaboration & transition support
- **Serves approximately 130 students district-wide**

Elementary Behavior Coaching (K-3)

- Support for K-3 students across all elementary buildings.
- Tier 1 classroom coaching & Tier 2 small group interventions.
- Staffing: District Facilitator & 2 Interventionists.
- **Serves approximately 1,420 students district-wide**

Successes from This Year

Instructional Coaching

Expansion of instructional coaching in preschool.

Enhanced Collaboration

Enhanced collaboration between Birth-3 providers and preschool team.

Behavior Systems

Tier 1 behavior systems implemented with fidelity in all 5 elementary buildings.

Preschool Instructional Coaching Expansion

- Over 104 individualized coaching sessions held this year!
- Feedback from teachers:

“The biggest success with children this year has been Seeing the progress not only on IEP goals, but with the students' abilities to function more independently in a classroom setting, showing increased confidence and maturity.”

“I value having flexibility so coaching can also be responsive to immediate classroom needs, problem-solving, and brainstorming when challenges come up. Quick notes about meetings are helpful so that I can refer back to what was discussed.”

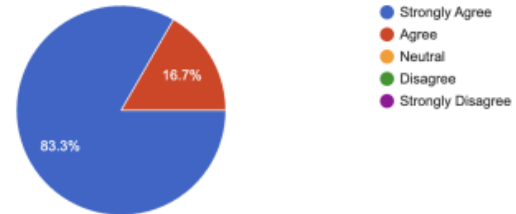
The frequency of coaching check-ins supported my role in working with children.

6 responses



The coaching and input I received on IEP goals supported student progress.

6 responses



I felt comfortable reaching out for support when needed.

6 responses



Birth-5 Collaboration and Transition Support

gr
ou
ps

m
ov
in
g

Enhanced Collaboration

Quarterly full department meetings between Birth-3 and Preschool teams.

Improved Transition Procedures

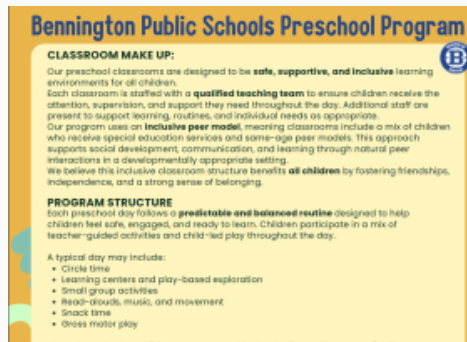
Birth-3 home-based services to preschool:

- Collaborative transition group services
- Parents and students visit preschool
- FAQ document and videos

m
en
t_t
ur
ne
d_in

IEP Development

Focus on the collaborative development of Individualized Education Plans.



Bennington Public Schools Preschool Program

CLASSROOM MAKE UP:
Our preschool classrooms are designed to be **safe, supportive, and inclusive** learning environments for all children. Each classroom is staffed with a **qualified teaching team** to ensure children receive the attention, supervision, and support they need throughout the day. Additional staff are present to support learning, routines, and individual needs as appropriate. Our program uses an **inclusive peer model**, meaning classrooms include a mix of children who receive special education services and same-age peer models. This approach supports social development, communication, and learning through natural peer interactions in a developmentally appropriate setting. We believe this inclusive classroom structure benefits **all children** by fostering friendships, independence, and a strong sense of belonging.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE
Each preschool day follows a **predictable and balanced routine** designed to help children feel safe, engaged, and ready to learn. Children participate in a mix of teacher-guided activities and child-led play throughout the day.

A typical day may include:

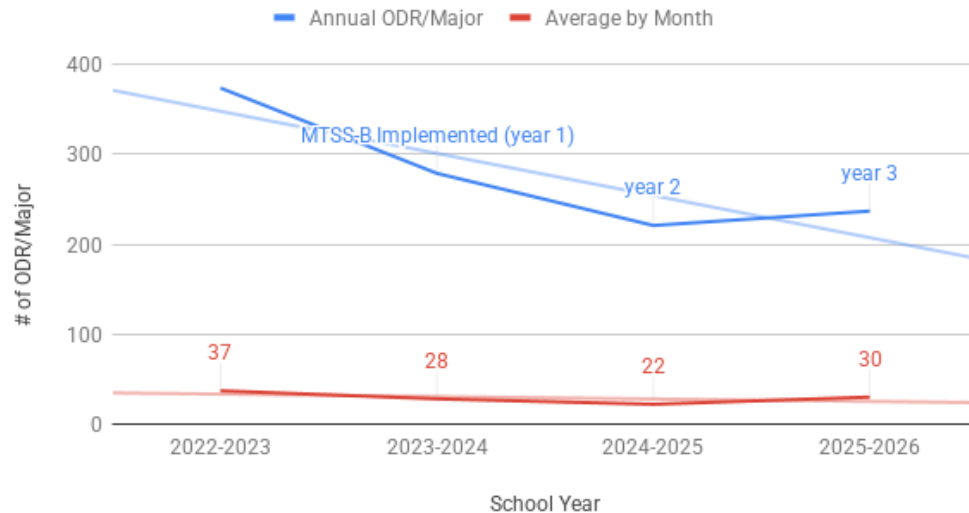
- Circle time
- Learning centers and play-based exploration
- Small group activities
- Read-alouds, music, and movement
- Snack time
- Cross motor play

Throughout the day, children are encouraged to develop a wide range of skills.

Tier 1 MTSS-B Implementation

- 37% decrease in elementary office referrals since implementation of program
- Comprehensive supports for students and staff
- Student success in MTSS-B:
 - Tier 1- 96%
 - Tier 2- 4%
 - Tier 3- 0.2%

Elementary District ODR/Major Behavior Data



Goals for Next Year

sy
nc
_a
lt

Level-to-Level Transitions

Continued focus on early childhood transitions:

- Maintain momentum: Birth-3 to preschool
- Refine procedures: Preschool to kindergarten

nd
in
g_
up

MTSS-B Sustainability

Improving implementation across all tiers:

- Sustain Tier 1 implementation
- Improve Tier 2 and Tier 3 approaches

Additional Updates: Collaboration with Buffett Early Childhood Institute

en
u_
bo
ok

Preschool Staff Handbook

- Developed as part of our Customized Assistance Plan with BECI
- Operationalized processes and procedures for our preschool program
- Utilized as a model for other Metro-area districts

gr
ou
ps

Preschool Advisory Team

- Priority area on Customized Assistance Plan
- Successful three-year collaboration with BECI staff
- Expanding community childcare and preschool involvement
- **Next Steps: Shared professional development & family involvement**

Questions?



Thank you for your time!





Mission: Advocating with and for young people to earn a diploma that supports the future they want and deserve.

Vision: For all young people in our community to have what they need to achieve their education and life goals.



The Learning Community and D2 Center: Two Missions Aligned for Greater Impact

- Learning Community Mission: “Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.”
- High poverty correlates with lower graduation rates
- The D2 Center serves students in the two highest poverty school districts in the Learning Community – OPS and Ralston

D2 Center Services

- Youth Academic Navigators
 - Building 1:1 relationships with struggling high school students
 - Caseload of 30-35 students at a time
 - Additional caseload of 20-25 students for reengagement
- Elective Credits and Tutoring
 - Three electives taught by Nebraska-certified teachers
 - Electives accepted by OPS and Ralston
- Career Navigators for postsecondary assistance
- Dropout Reengagement
 - Services agreement with OPS since 2016
 - YANs and Career Navigators participate

2025-26 Budget = \$1,398,951

- Staff (84% of total budget)
 - Full time: 2 Executive Directors (Programs & Operations); 8 YANs (one is half-time YAN and half-time Reengagement Supervisor)
 - Part Time: 3 Career Navigators (also teach one elective class); 2 math teachers; 1 English teacher; 1 intake specialist
- The Learning Community funds the salary and benefits of 2 YANs, the half YAN/half reengagement supervisor, the two math teachers and one English teacher, and one Career Navigator (new hire; liaison for Ralston Public Schools and Adult Education Center at Goodwill)

2024-25 Highlights

- 160 students graduated (record high; 133 in 2023-24)
- 110 students earned 152 D2C elective credits (both records; 91 students earned 135 electives 2023-24)
- 71 of the 110 students earning at least one D2C elective did so in their final semester in which they graduated

2025-26 Goals

- 150+ graduates and 100+ elective credits earned
- Establish a formal partnership with Ralston Public Schools and pilot a few students second semester in the YAN Program
- Establish a partnership with Adult Education Center at Goodwill to keep students on a pathway to an accredited high school diploma beyond age 21

Additional Updates

- Securing new funding sources in 2026-27 remains a priority
- The Sherwood Foundation is supporting a contract with a new marketing team (E Creative) to improve marketing strategies
- Waiting for the results of the formal evaluation from Munroe-Meyer Institute

Guided by our Values

Our values are: Genuine. Respectful. Aspirational. Determined.

D2 Center staff live these values every day, and our commitment to our mission and values is what enables us to:

- Meet our students where they are and approach them with empathy
- Understand their personal barriers and help students overcome obstacles to earning a diploma
- Build 1:1 relationships with a focus on flexibility, personal success and their future.
- Try and try again, and then again! We don't give up on our students even if they fail classes, have poor attendance, or drop out. We continue to do outreach for months or even years and encourage them to return to school and change the course of their lives.

Thank you!

Thank you to the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
for your partnership and support in helping us make a positive
difference in students' lives





ELKHORN

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learning Community
District Initiative 2.0
May 2026 Update

About Elkhorn Public Schools

- Nearly 12,000 students
- 14 Elementary schools
- District hires nearly 100 educators per year

Learning Community Projects

- Elementary Jump Start to Reading
 - Extended Learning (Summer)
 - Target K-3 students who need additional support in literacy
 - Offered in late summer to support transition to next grade level

LC 2.0 Project Goals

1. Improved literacy skills for students
2. Improved use of research-based instructional practices in all Preschool - Grade 3 settings

Successes in 2024– 2025

- Elementary Language Arts Committee professional development and collaboration to plan for curriculum adoption
- Summer 2025 Professional Development for elementary educators: 194 teachers attended

Accomplishments/ Goals for 2025- 2026

- UNO Early Literacy Workshop: 22 participants completing the course Spring 2026
- 5 EPS teachers scheduled to complete Train-the-Trainer course with UNO in Summer 2026

Looking ahead to 2026-2027

- UNO Early Literacy Workshop in Fall 2026: 100+ EPS teachers signed up to take course taught by EPS teachers
- UNK Project Rise: Professional development course for preschool teachers to start in Fall 2026



Questions?

Budgets

2025-26 -\$712,542

2026-27 -\$697,566

Changes Made

- Removed subcontract
- Reduced FTE
- Decreased supply line (\$-6000)
- Decreased fees for certification (-\$3000)
- Decreased incentives (-\$4000)
- Included 3% anticipated raises for personnel
- Total Budget decrease:
\$14,976

Center-Level Evaluation

Parent University

- Adult Data
 - KIPS – 50+ so far
 - CASAS
- Individual Student Fall Data
 - 36 MEFS
 - 36 Brackens
 - Data Debriefs

LCCSO

- Adult Data
 - KIPS – 100 + so far
 - CASAS
- Individual Student Fall Data
 - 74 MEFS
 - 74 Brackens
 - Data Debriefs

Site/Program	Key Outcomes	Measures/Tools	Data Sources	Timing	Analysis Approach
LCC South Omaha	Child development; parent engagement; adult skill development	MEFS; Bracken; CASAS; Parent surveys; Focus groups	Child assessments; Adult assessments; Administrative data	Ongoing; annual	Mixed-methods; outcome tracking and thematic analysis
LCC North Omaha – Parent University	Family engagement; child readiness; program completion	MEFS; Bracken; KIPS; CASAS Surveys; Course outcomes	Child assessments; Administrative data; Family data	Ongoing; annual	Outcome analysis; participation and completion trends
Data Debriefs	Program improvement; data utilization	Data utilization and dissemination	Child data	2x/year	Participatory data interpretation

Intensive Early Childhood Sites

- 8 schools
- 2025-2026
 - Over 3200 individual child assessments
 - 52 CLASS observations, 52 observation debriefs
 - Over 100 data debriefs

Component	Key Outcomes	Measures/Tools	Data Sources	Timing	Analysis Approach
Classroom Quality	Teacher-child interactions; classroom climate	CLASS observations	Observation data	Fall & Spring	Pre-post comparison; classroom-level trends
Social-Emotional Development	Self-regulation; attachment; behavior	ASQ	Child assessments	Fall & Spring	Growth analysis; Norm- referenced comparison
Executive Function	Cognitive flexibility; working memory	MEFS	Child assessments	Fall & Spring	Growth analysis; Norm- referenced comparison
Language Development	Receptive vocabulary	PPVT	Child assessments	Fall & Spring	Growth analysis; Norm- referenced comparison
School Readiness	Kindergarten readiness	Bracken	Child assessments	Fall & Spring	Pre-post comparison
Implementation	Fidelity; staff experience	Focus groups/surveys	Coaches; teachers; staff	Spring	Thematic analysis
Family Engagement	Family participation	ChildPlus data	Administrative data	Ongoing	Participation and engagement trends

District Initiatives

- Instructional Coaching
 - Teacher survey
 - Coach survey
 - District data
 - NSCAS data
- Extended Learning
 - Parent survey
 - District data
- Jump Start to Kindergarten
 - 100+ MEFS
 - Parent survey
 - K survey

Initiative	Key Outcomes	Measures/Tools	Data Sources	Timing	Analysis Approach
Jump Start to Kindergarten	School readiness; executive function; successful kindergarten transition	MEFS (pre/post); Parent surveys; Kindergarten teacher survey	Student assessments; Parent report; Teacher feedback	Pre/post (summer); Fall follow-up	Pre-post change analysis; triangulation across data sources
Extended Learning	Academic achievement; family engagement	Parent surveys; Student achievement data	District administrative data; Parent report	Ongoing; annual	Descriptive and comparative analysis of student outcomes
Instructional Coaching	Instructional quality; student academic progress; fidelity of implementation	AimsWeb, MAP, Accuity, NeSA; Staff surveys/focus groups	District data systems; Staff input	Ongoing; Spring qualitative data	Growth analysis; thematic analysis of implementation

Initiatives 2.0

- Customized evaluation services
- Teacher/educator efficacy surveys
- Student level data across all projects

Component	Key Activities	Outputs	Data Sources	Timing	Analysis Approach
Implementation Data	Track program delivery and participation	Implementation metrics	Program records	2026-2027	Descriptive analysis
Outcome Data	Measure program effectiveness	Outcome indicators	Mixed data sources including surveys, district and agency data	2026-2027	Outcome and comparative analysis
Student Outcomes	Measure student growth and achievement	Student achievement	District data including MAP, NSCAS, AIMSweb, FastBridge, GOLD, Attendance HS credits earned Graduation numbers	2026-2027	Descriptive and comparative analysis

Superintendent's Plan

Component	Key Outcomes	Measures/Tools	Data Sources	Timing	Analysis Approach
Collaboration	Cross-district alignment	Annual Collaboration Survey	Staff	Annual	Descriptive & comparative
Implementation	Action plan execution	Focus groups	District stakeholders	Ongoing	Thematic analysis
Professional Learning	PD effectiveness	PD surveys	Participants	Post-event	Satisfaction & impact analysis
Family Engagement	Family participation & outcomes	Interviews; Focus groups	Families	Ongoing	Mixed-methods
Child Development	Developmental progress	ASQ	Family engagement participants	Ongoing	Developmental screening analysis
Student Experience	Sense of belonging	Student survey	Students	Annual	Comparative analysis
Academic achievement	Academic growth and achievement	District data including MAP, AIMSweb, FastBridge, Attendance	Districts	Ongoing	Quantitative