

# Partnering With Providers of Early Care and Education Programs



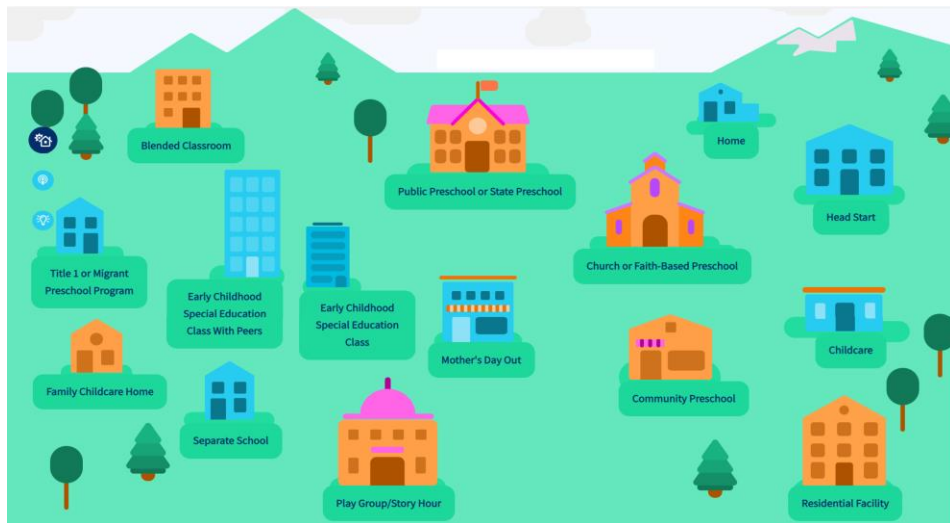
**Cohort 1 and 2 FAPE  
Transition Informational  
Session**

**April 16, 2025**

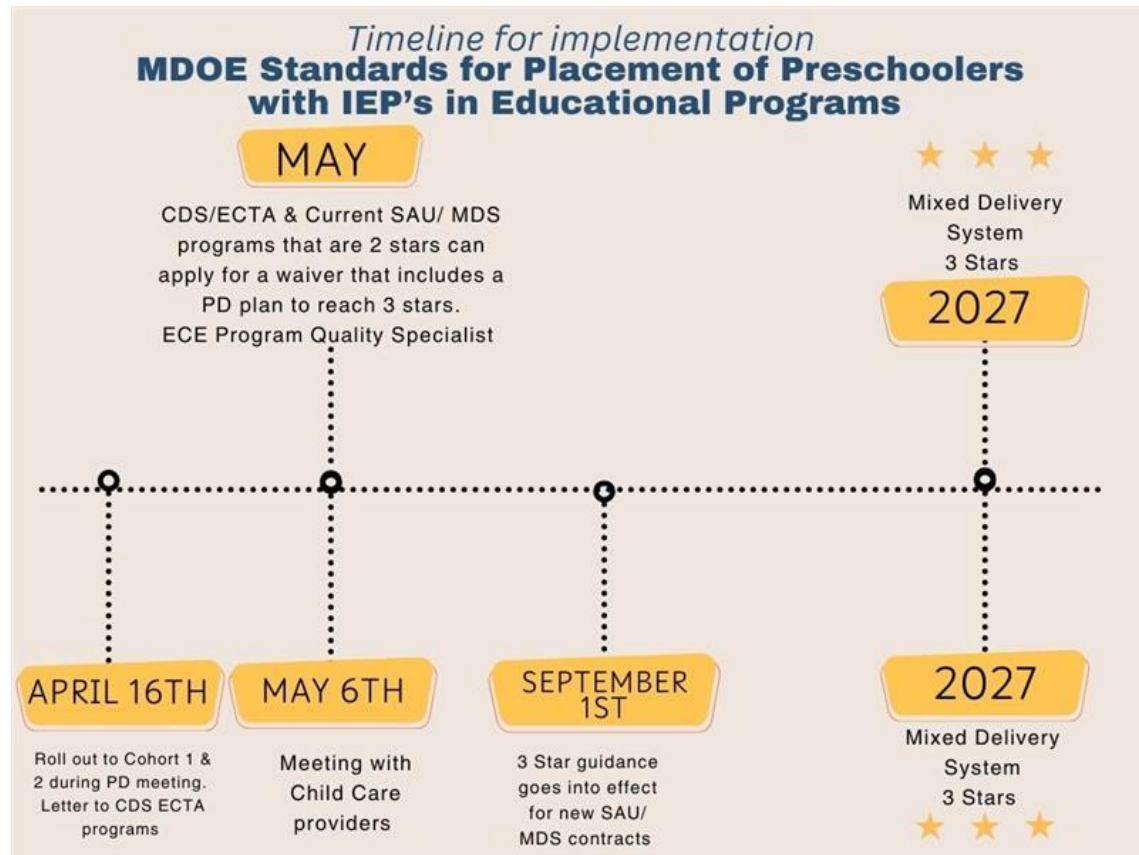
# Community Partnerships and FAPE in a Mixed Delivery System

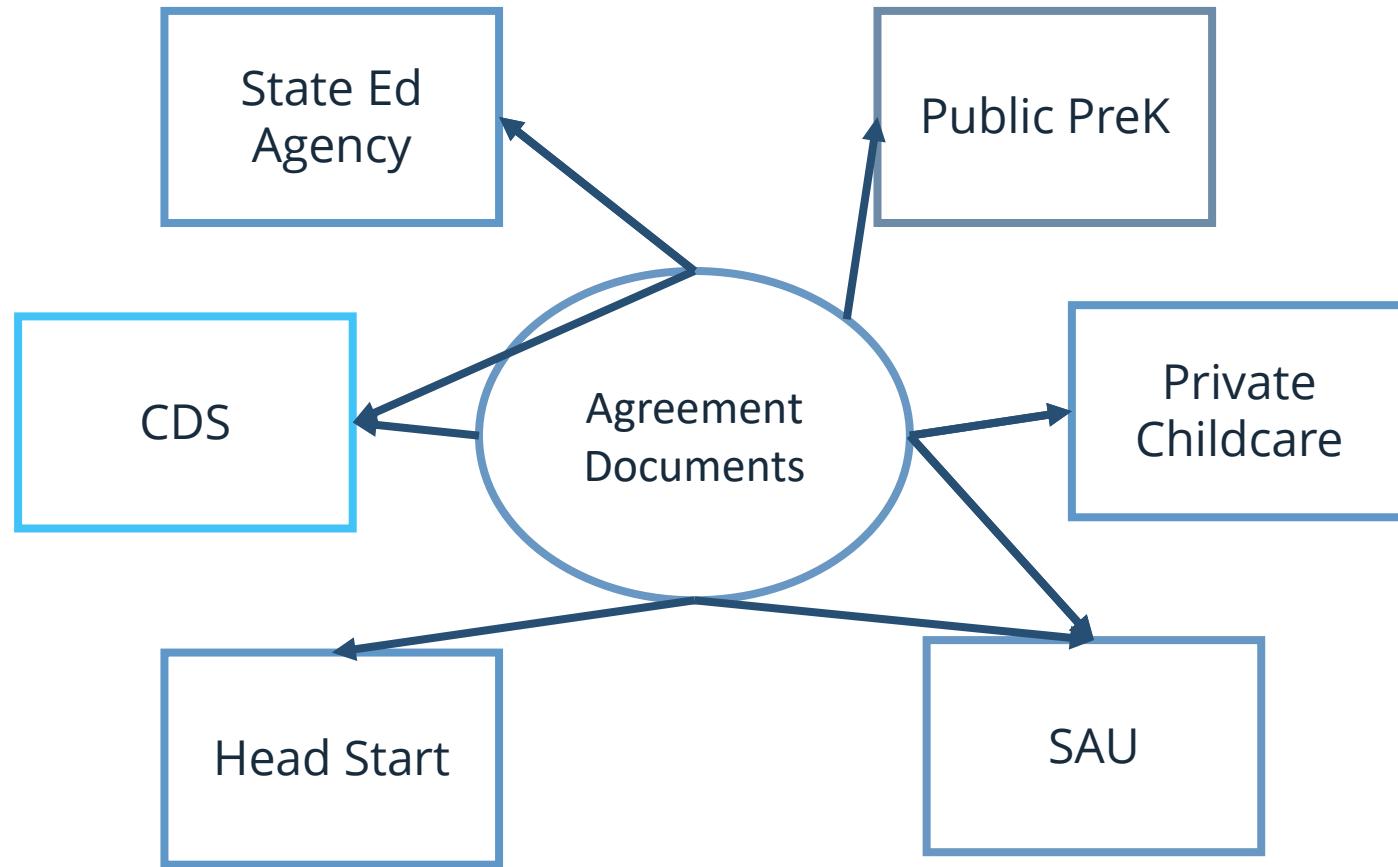
## Effective Partnerships:

- ↕ Common goals and understandings
- ↕ Mutual benefit
- ↕ Dialogue and collaboration
- ↕ Clear language



## Timeline for Implementation

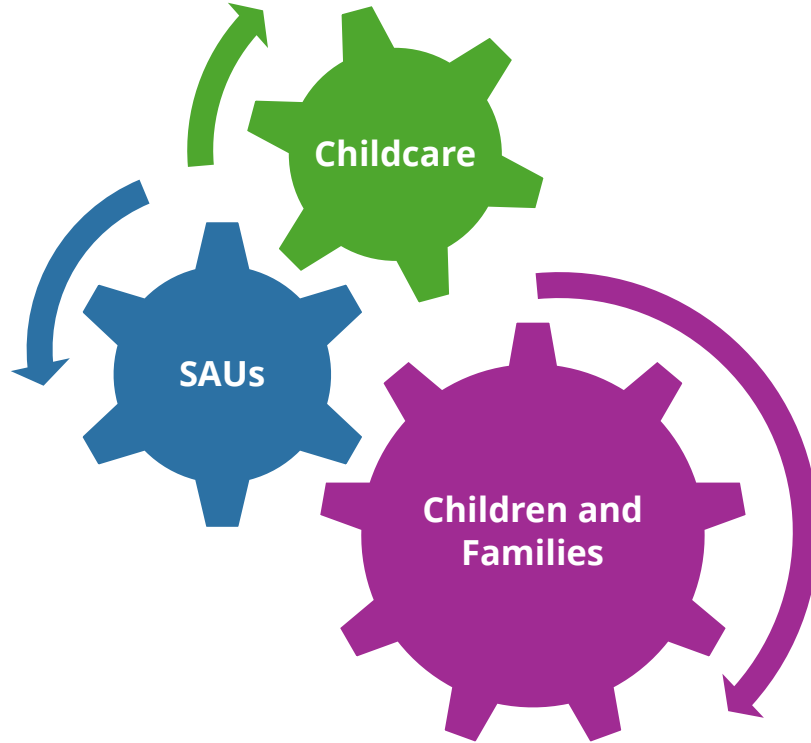




# Sample of Agreements Currently in Use

Partners	Purpose	SEA	CDS	SAU	Head Start	Child care
SEA/CDS/SAU	Cohort schools working with CDS to provide FAPE	x	x	x		
Head Start/SAU	Required to support coordination between Head Start Preschool and publicly funded preschool programs			x	x	
Head Start/CDS	Describes how CDS would provide services to preschool children with disabilities in Head Start settings		x		x	
Public PreK/SEA/SAU	Lays out roles and responsibilities when engaged in delivering PreK programs	x		x		
CDS/SAU	Lays out roles and responsibilities when CDS serves children in the public prek setting operated by SAU		x	x		
SAU/Childcare	Provide FAPE to preschool children with disabilities in mixed delivery system			x		x

# Goal of Agreements Between SAUs and Childcare



Co-designing a partnership agreement can positively impact the community.

# Benefits of Community Partnerships

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- An illustration in the background of the slide shows several hands of different colors (pink, yellow, blue, grey, orange, teal) reaching upwards, each holding a pink heart. This visual metaphor represents community, support, and shared responsibility.
- Improved outcomes for students
  - Improved family engagement and involvement
  - Strong social and emotional development in students
  - Access to a range of high- quality programming to meet unique needs
  - Improved transitions
  - Trust, support, shared responsibility
  - Increased access to resources

# Story of Success

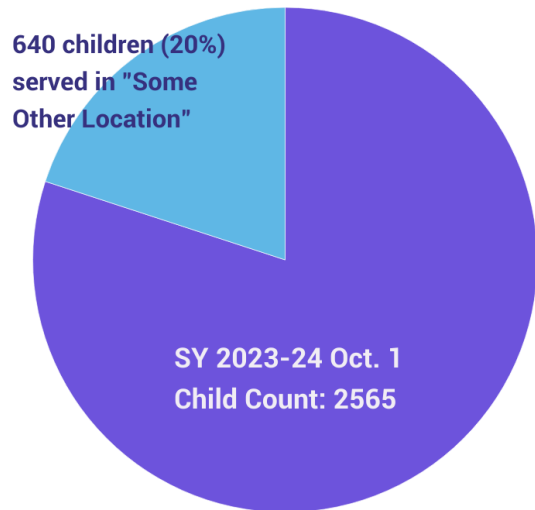
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- Child Development Services and mixed delivery partnerships
- Educare, CDS and local SAU
- Bath Universal Pre-K Partnership- Vimeo clip





# Programs Matter



Extra trips



Extra Teachers, Different Friends



Consider partnering with the  
programs children with disabilities  
already attend.

# Overview of Process of Developing Partnerships

- **Need:** Do we need to collaborate with other programs to offer a continuum of placement options?
- **Partners:** Who in our community is offering early childhood programming?
- **Relationship:** Are there ways we can work together to serve community needs?
- **Purpose:** What are our common goals and current capacities?
- **Commit:** What might be our roles, responsibilities?
- **Check in:** How often should we check on how things are going?

# Relationship Building: An Essential Step in Process



## Empathy

- Willing to come to the aide and rescue of the other when needed, if possible—be safety net
- Putting yourself in the other person's shoes



## Communication

- Reaching out
- Being willing to ask for help
- Communicating clearly, regularly,
- Revisiting the agreements, bringing up issues as they arise



## Trust

- To state what the problem is
- Asking for ideas and input to solve problems/challenges
- Live with uncertainty, take risks, for greater good



## Respect

- Follow agreed upon roles and responsibilities
- Being willing open to learn from others—may not have the experience but need to be ok with that...

# Consider in the Agreement

Who?

- Child Care Program Staff
- SAU Staff
- Administrators

What?

- Age groups, class sizes
- Delivery of services and IEP meetings,
- Supervision activities
- Communications with parents, staff

When?

- Annual Calendar
- Days per week
- hours per day (special education, non-special education time)

Where?

- Enrollment setting
- Location
- Description of physical environment

How?

- Fiscal relationships
- Transportation
- Behavior policies
- Ongoing PD

# Summary

Collaboration + Coordination =  
Serving Communities through  
Effective Partnerships



# Contact us for Support with Next Steps-Here to Support

Reaching out to OSSIE and CDS team

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[J.Sandy.Flacke@maine.gov](mailto:J.Sandy.Flacke@maine.gov)

CDS Site Directors

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/cds/contact>

# Resources

- Choices Pre-K Vimeo Clip: [Partnership between Maine School District RSU1 and high-quality early care and education programs across their community](#)
- [EC and SAU Gen Ed MOU-Template.docx](#)
- [Google Drive Resources Folder](#)
- Link to the Partnership Tips handout
- John Searles, Midland County ESA, Michigan, 2024. [A Responsible Mixed Delivery System - Collaboration is Key: A Superintendent's Story](#)
- [ERIC - ED459047 - School-Community Connections: A Literature Review., 2001-Dec](#)