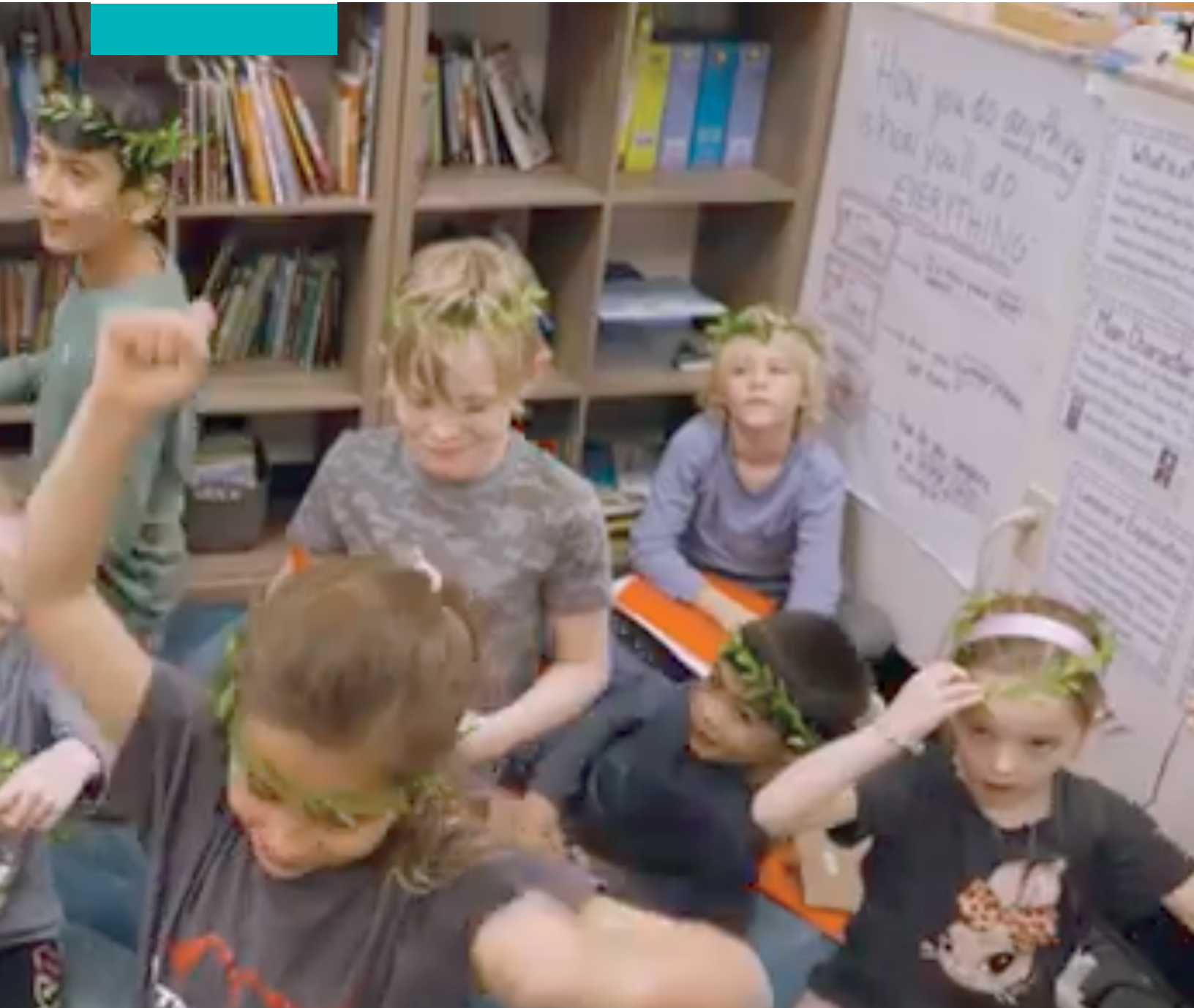


ROADMAP TO SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLING

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OVERVIEW

Welcome to the most exciting movement in American education in a generation. Microschools, rooted in relationships and understandings that every leader has of who each child is as an individual, are blooming across the country.

Partnership microschooling is ideal for local government entities, employers, associations, and Houses of Worship. These host partners contract with technical partners, who are often nonprofits or educators. The technical partner oversees the teaching and learning.

Microschools are creating a transformative shift in teaching and learning. Flexible and adaptable, they meet each child where they are in their learning trajectory. Microschool leaders foster close communities and culture.

Today, Microschools are commonly found in three tracks: Independent, Partnership, and Corporate Networks.

OBJECTIVE

The National Microschooling Center is an empowering hub for pioneering small learning environments. We are a highly visible, tireless resource for microschooling leaders, families, policymakers, and those who can support them.

The microschools we help launch and support will offer quality educational options. We strongly encourage microschools to be as equitable and measurably effective as possible to best meet the diverse needs of our families. Our aim is to support you during each step of your microschooling journey and to help you reach your full potential as a host or technical partner.

WHY START A MICROSCHOOL?

At the National Microschooling Center, we believe the best answer comes from the learners in your life whose needs you want to meet.

Many see microschooling as a big part of the future of education - diverse, versatile and unique, with small environments to meet the needs of your learners in the most effective way possible.

We also believe that there are a variety of benefits available to host partners. Not only are you serving families important to you, you are adding an important addition to your benefits package, finding new ways to serve your congregation and community, adding value for your association members, and so much more.

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

The **host partner** is an employer, House of Worship, association, library, City Government, or other organization. They often provide the space which can be an empty office space, classrooms in a House of Worship building, a community center, or other available space. They provide other resources from their available assets that might include staffing for drop off and pick up, technology, or an IT department.

The **technical partner**, often a nonprofit or contracted educator, designs the educational plan and oversees the day-to-day teaching and learning. They are responsible for tracking growth, communicating with families, and managing any teaching and learning staff. Depending on the size of the microschool, they may also be a learning guide.

WHY PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLS?

1 SERVING THE FAMILIES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Partnership microschooling provides the host partner an unparalleled opportunity to serve the families most important to you, increasing loyalty, retention, satisfaction and more. This also provides the host partner with positive media coverage as they provide a world-class learning experience for their community.

2 PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLS PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO TECHNICAL PARTNER

The technical partner in partnership microschools has the unique opportunity to create a microschool program, based on the needs of their learners, while utilizing cost-saving resources, such as location, technology, and staffing, provided by the host partner.

3 COST-EFFECTIVE

The microschooling model utilizes available assets, such as facilities and technology, to keep costs down. There is minimal, if any, administration on the technical partner side, which also aides in keeping costs low. The National Microschooling Center helps keep costs low by providing low-cost, world-class learning tools and curricula.

4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The options are limitless when building a partnership microschool. Some employers and associations are choosing to create high school microschools that also provide hands-on training and certificates for workforce development.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

We are foundation funded and can help you assess the needs of your particular learners and families as your unpaid consultants. The National Microschooling Center can provide support in determining available host partner assests, as well as work with the technical partner to design a program, this includes everything from planning a schedule to selecting learning tools.

Working with us gives you access to receive cost-saving benefits, as well as world-class tools that we have tested and compared. Because we work with many microschools, we can purchase these tools and curricula at a discount, which means these cost-savings can be passed on to your families.

START-UP SUPPORT

Work with our team to make sure you're fully prepared to open your microschool. We can assist with background checks, instructional options, planning initial assessments for learners, understanding data, setting up space, and more.

LEARNING OPTIONS

Collaborate with our team to gain a better understanding of the various learning options available for your microschool. In addition to our suggestions, we can support you in identifying alternative options and making a selection that tailors to the specific needs of your learners.

TRAININGS

We offer trainings for microschooling leaders covering areas such as operational necessities, smart growth, alternative ways to measure effectiveness, and more.

LEARNER INTAKE & BASELINE ASSESSMENT HELP

Partner with us to receive as-needed administrative support, including initial learner assessments and mastery-level placement decisions.

COMMUNITY

Access our community of microschool leaders and families to share ideas and resources. We host in-person and online forums to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices, as well as creating a space for community-driven question and answers.



ROADMAP TO STARTING

1

SEEK OUT PARTNERSHIPS

Are you the host partner or technical partner? Do you already have a partnership formed? Maybe you need help finding the partner to create a microschool with? Contact us and we can guide you through the process of forming a partnership, as well as make some suggestions to find the right technical or host partner for you.

2

FILL OUT OUR PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLING QUESTIONNAIRE

Filling out the partnership microschooling form at microschoolingcenter.org will help us get a better idea of what you are building. One of our team members will reach out via email after you fill out the form. We will provide you with helpful resources and schedule an initial call at a time that fits your schedule.

3

CONSIDER LICENSING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

If you will be operating a microschool, it is important that you understand your obligations and rights as it relates to licensing, background checks, and other requirements. We review what you need to know so that you can make an informed decision that is right for you.

4

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Talk about your idea with families in your community. Get a sense of who is interested, who your learners will be, and what their needs are. We can help you hold informational sessions and connect with families.

5

TRAINING THAT WORKS FOR YOU

The National Microschooling Center has a series of trainings designed with the unique needs of microschooling leaders in mind. These trainings are created to help guide you from pre-launch through growing your microschool.

6

SELECT LEARNING TOOLS

We are constantly studying a variety of world-class learning tools and curricula in order to offer you the best insight possible. We also have access to different licenses for learning tools, allowing you to use these top-of-the-line tools at an affordable price. We can help understand what options might be best for your learners, and if you decide you don't want to use curriculum or digital learning tools, we are happy to help you think through a solution that works for you and your learners!

LEARNING TOOLS

While your options are vast, the choices below are some of the most popular curricula and learning tools that we have a high seen microschoools thrive with.

A beautiful strength of microschoooling is the ability to build a program to meet the academic needs of individual learners, to meet them "where they are." With that in mind, here are some of our favorite tools we are happy to work with you to integrate into your model, along with any others you might be considering:



Lexia, available for grades K-8, is an adaptive literacy program. Lexia helps learners read, write, and speak with confidence. This adaptive learning tools comes with a variety of lessons and resources for educators.



Zearn is a teacher-designed, child-likeable math learning tool and curriculum, built upon foundational learning practices, where kids learn independently in lively, self-paced lessons. Zearn also provides whole and small group lessons plans and instruction.



One of the fastest-growing and exciting new forces in American education, Outschool engages and inspires learning through a wide variety of classes and subjects so learners can dive deeper into their favorite interests.



Core Knowledge provides comprehensive, content-rich learning materials based on the Core Knowledge Sequence. Student readers, teacher guides, activity books, and other materials are available for Language Arts, History and Geography, and Science. Also check out E.D. Hirsch's "What Your ___ Grader Needs to Know" series.

We can help you select, and change, your learning tools to meet the needs of your specific learners. Contact us today for a more comprehensive selection of options designed to meet the needs of your learners!

CORPORATE NETWORK MICROSCHOOLS

When considering developing your microschool model and learning tools, you might want to think through corporate network microschools. These can oftentimes provide framework to structure your microschools around, as well as learning tools and curriculum built into the cost to affiliate.

We work with microschool leaders who love corporate networks and never want to leave, and others who say that the corporate network model gave them the structure they needed for the first year or so, and then they chose to end their affiliation and branch out on their own after that.

There are many things to consider when looking at corporate network microschooling, such as cost, tools offered, timeframe of commitment, trainings required, how much flexibility you would like vs. how much flexibility offered.

We have good relationships with many of the corporate networks and are happy to talk you through the options and connect you to the right team member at these networks. Some examples of corporate networks are:

ACTON ACADEMY

"Acton Academy is dedicated to inspiring each child to see life as a Hero's Journey. Acton [utilizes] adaptive game based programs for core skills, socratic discussions to strengthen critical thinking, hands on real world projects, and life changing apprenticeships."

prenda

"Prenda is a unique education option that connects students with local microschools. Caring individuals, called Guides, run these microschools from their homes or other suitable locations while Prenda provides the learning experience, state standard-aligned curriculum, and supportive community."



"Wildflower is an ecosystem of decentralized Montessori micro-schools that support children, teachers, and parents. Wildflower aspires to give all children and families the opportunity to choose high quality, beautiful learning environments as they follow life's unfolding journey."



"KaiPod organizes pods of 8-10 students who live close by and are all enrolled in an online school. We provide a location for parents to drop their students off, and staff those locations with a KaiPod Coach. KaiPod Coaches are responsible for making the space a place where students are safe, can focus and complete assignments, and have fun together."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 DOES MY STAFF NEED TEACHING EXPERIENCE?

They do not need to be licensed teachers, or have teaching experience, in order to teach at or lead a microschool, but it can help. Your microschooling team can be created utilizing current staff that we can train, as well as adding additional staff members. If you are looking for individuals with teaching experience, we can help you find the right people.

2 WHAT SPACE WORKS FOR A MICROSCHOOL?

We have worked to build partnership microschools in a variety of locations. Keep in mind the number of children you will be serving when you think of a space that works for you. Libraries, recreation centers, empty office space, and conference rooms are all feasible options.

3 DO MICROSCHOOLS NEED TO STICK TO THEIR STATE'S ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS?

Academic content standards are approved by each state for their public schools. If microschools are serving homeschool children, their curricular choices are up to them, and can be chosen to best meet the needs of the particular learners served. In some states, homeschool families are required to ensure certain subjects are taught, along with adhering to certain requirements for assessing children.

4 HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Depending on the format and services provided by you to your learners, the cost will vary. If you already have the facilities and technology, the main cost will be your teaching staff. You can determine if this is a cost you can cover, or if you need to pass this cost on to your families by charging a fee to attend.



CONTACT US

ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to learn more, please reach out!



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