



**Effective Partnerships and Enhanced Blended
Funding of High-Quality Early Learning
Programs in Tennessee**

July 23, 2018

Session Outline

- Session Overview
- Introduction of Panelists
- Panelist opening presentations
- Time for Dialogue and Discussion
- Closing remarks (panelists/facilitator)

Session Introduction

- This forum will focus on definitions, strategies and benefits of ECE funding partnerships:
 - expanded (comprehensive) services,
 - extension of program day,
 - increase access for more children;
 - workforce compensation or ratios,
 - facility enhancements,
 - and much more.
- The blending of funds is when **two or more** separate funding sources are wrapped together to pay for a unified set of program services to a group of children.

Meet the Panelists

- Ms. Anne Barger: Wilson County Schools
- Mr. Walter Butler: Wayne County Schools
- Ms. Ariel Ford: Mayor's Office of Early Learning, Chattanooga
- Ms. Laure Hopper: Head Start Director, South Central Human Resource Agency
- Ms. Sherronda Thompson: Family Resource Agency, Bradley County and Cleveland City
- Ms. Belva Weathersby, Facilitator, Director, Head Start State Collaboration Office, Office of Early Learning, TN Department of Education

Session Expectations

- Panelist will:
 - Share their experiences in a facilitated discussion related to Effective Partnerships and Enhanced Funding of High-Quality Early Learning Programs.
 - Share models of partnership and participation of blending funding models to ensure school readiness and enhance services to children and families in their local communities.



Ask the Panelists

What questions do you have about partnerships and blended funding?



Ask the Panelists

Questions #1

- How did you determine that a blended funding partnership model was a good option for your district or program?



Ask the Panelists

Question #2

- How was this model received by your governing body, policy council, or other advisory group?



Ask the Panelists

Question #3

- How do you manage your recruitment and attendance tracking processes?



Ask the Panelists

Question #4

- How do you manage policy and procedural differences with the various funders?



Ask the Panelists

Questions # 5

- What did you find to be the main benefits of blended funding partnerships?



Ask the Panelists

Questions # 6

- What were some of the greatest challenges and how did you address them?



Ask the Panelists

Questions #7

- What programmatic issues, if any, have you experienced?



Ask the Panelists

Questions # 8

- How do you manage and track revenue and expenditures from multiple funding streams in accordance with your cost allocation plan?



Ask the Panelists

Questions # 9

- What other models of blended, braided or layered funding have you used, and which did you find most effective? Least effective?



Ask the Panelists

Questions # 10

- If you could do things differently with utilizing multiple funding streams, what would you do differently?



Closing Comments

Early childhood education is the key to the betterment of society. —Maria Montessori



Early childhood education is an urgent educational, economic and moral imperative. Without it, we face a long-term national economic security crisis. —J. B. Pritzker