

# First 10 School-Community Partnerships in Action: Maine's Distinctive Approach to Community Schools

February 11, 2025

@readingby3rd #GLReading #LearningTuesdays



CRUCIBLE  
OF PRACTICE

*Reflections on Lessons Learned*



**FEBRUARY 11**  
12:30–2 PM ET



# First 10 School-Community Partnerships in Action: Maine's Distinctive Approach to Community Schools



## Conversation Leads



Steve Bussiere  
Assistant Superintendent  
Sanford School District, Maine



David Jacobson, Ph.D.  
Director  
First 10 Initiative  
Education Development Center



Susan Inman, Ph.D.  
Principal  
Sanford Pride Elementary  
School, Maine



Lee Anne Larsen  
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Sue Gallant  
First 10 Community School  
Specialist  
Early Learning Team, Maine  
Department of Education



Shana Palmer  
First 10 Coordinator  
Sanford Pride Elementary  
School, Maine

**FEBRUARY 11**  
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# First 10 School-Community Partnerships in Action: Maine's Distinctive Approach to Community Schools

The Campaign for  
GRADE-LEVEL  
READING

## Moderator



Liletta Jenkins  
Director of Community Outreach  
and Engagement  
Alabama Department of Early  
Childhood Education

# Maine's Distinctive Approach to First 10 Community Schools

David Jacobson  
February 11, 2025



# The CGLR First 10 Series

- ➔ **November 12:** The First 10 Framework: Exploring Best Practices and Community Innovations
- ➔ **February 11:** The State of Maine's Distinctive Approach to First 10: Building Local Capacity through Community Schools
- ➔ **May 6:** First 10 Communities and Early Math: The Young Mathematicians Initiative in York, PA.

**FEBRUARY 11** 12:30-2 PM ET ➔ First 10 School-Community Partnerships in Action: Maine's Distinctive Approach to Community Schools 

 <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Liletta Jenkins</b> Director of Community Outreach and Engagement Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education</p>	 <p><i>Panelist:</i> <b>Steve Bussiere</b> Assistant Superintendent Sanford School Department, Maine</p>	 <p><i>Panelist:</i> <b>Sue Gallant</b> First 10 Community School Specialist Early Learning Team Maine Department of Education</p>	 <p><i>Panelist:</i> <b>David Jacobson</b> Director First 10 Initiative Education Development Center</p>	 <p><i>Panelist:</i> <b>Lee Anne Larsen</b> Director of Early Learning Maine Department of Education</p>	 <p><i>Panelist:</i> <b>Shana Palmer</b> First 10 Coordinator Sanford Pride Elementary School, Maine</p>
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#LearningTuesdays

# Early Childhood @ EDC

**With a commitment to addressing disparities and ensuring equity**, EDC promotes the overall health, development, and early learning of children—from before birth throughout childhood. Our work informs the field, supports families and caregivers, builds the capacity of organizations and people, and advances effective policy.



Commitment from the beginning (Hands-On Science, 1960; Head Start, 1978)

**50+** Projects



**Influential Partners:** PBS, Sesame Workshop, Apple, Google, New America

**80+** Staff

**Funders:** HRSA, OHS, OCC, USAID, NSF, NIH, DoEd, SAMHSA, UNICEF, Heising-Simons Foundation, Wallace Foundation, LEGO Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Overdeck Family Foundation

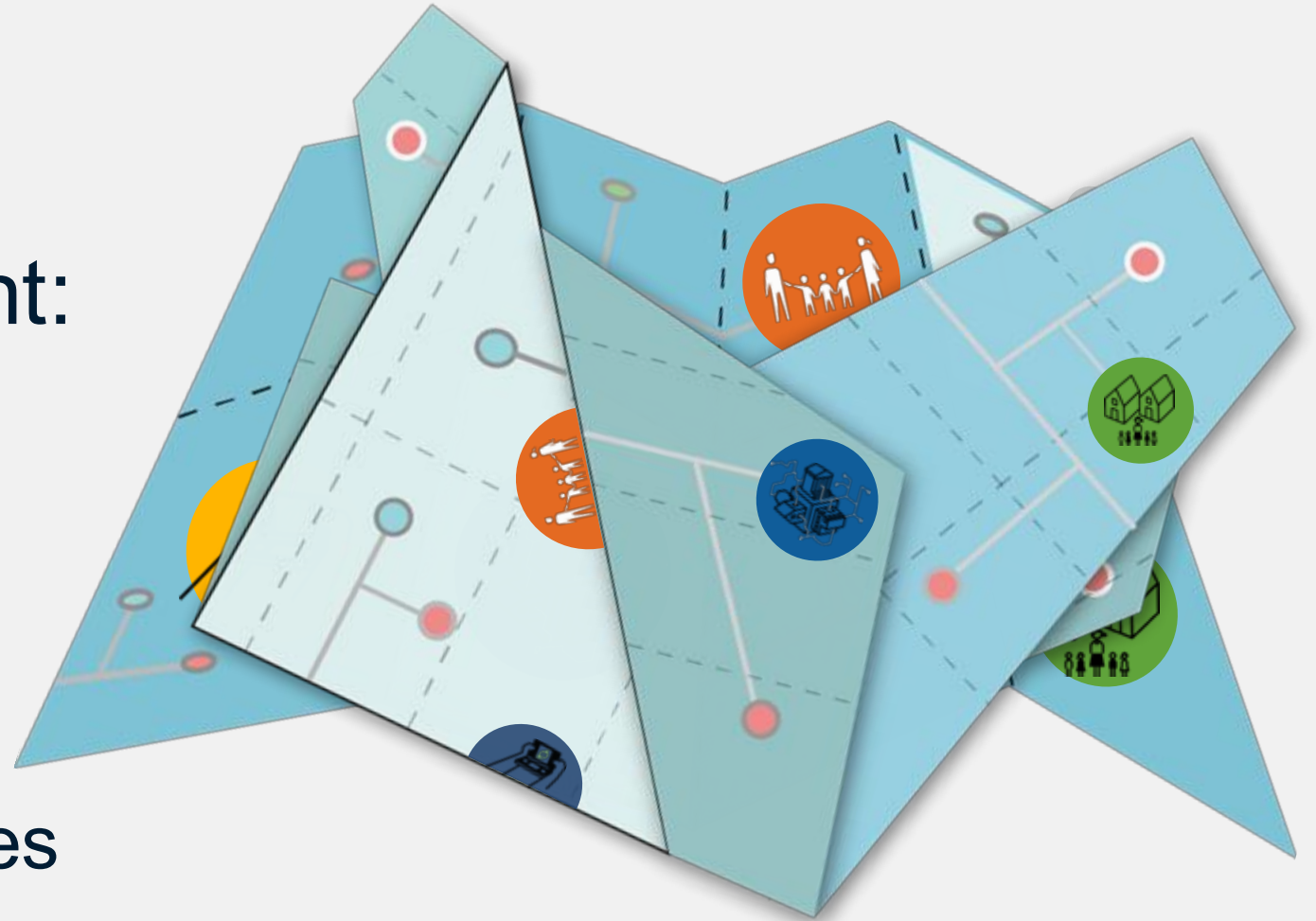
## Global Reach

50 U.S. states, Asia, Africa, and Latin America



# Barrier to Improvement: **Fragmentation**

- 0-5 / K-12
- Education / Health / Social Services
- Public / Private



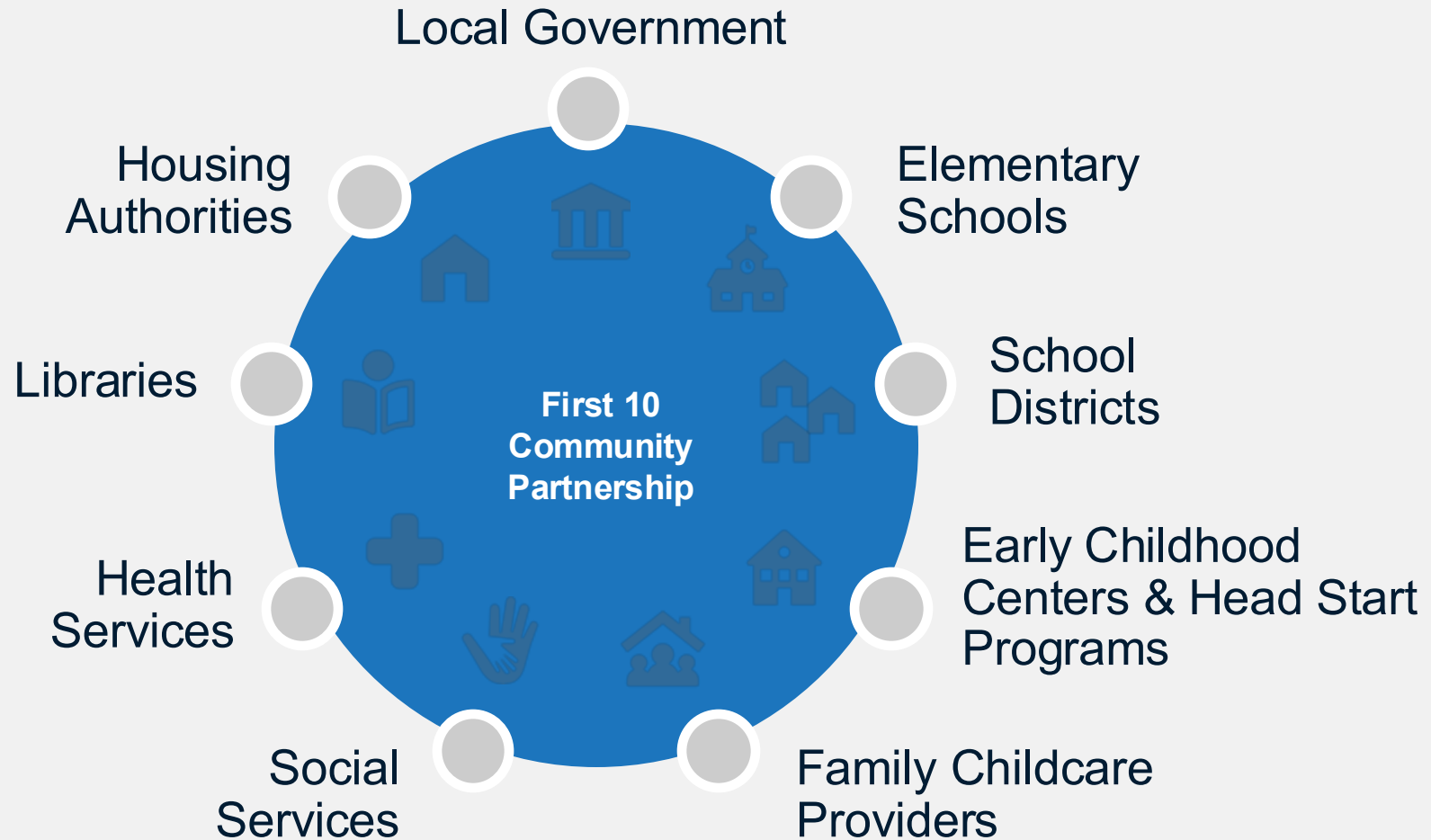
# First 10 Framework

## Effective Schools

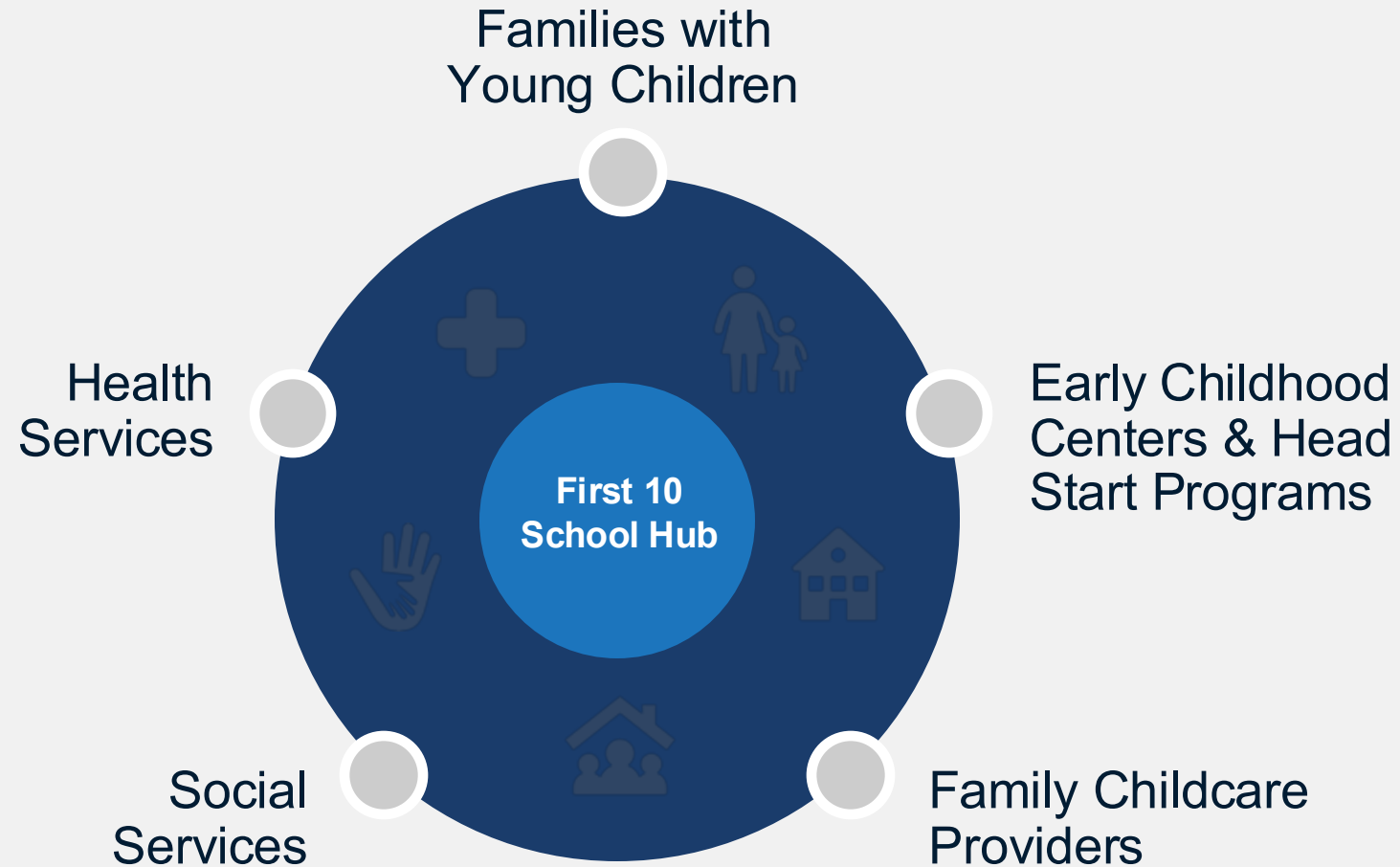




# First 10 Community Partnership



# First 10 Community School Hub





**Maine:** State and local First 10 teams

**Pennsylvania:** Community, county, and regional initiatives

**Rhode Island:** Transition to Kindergarten leading to First 10 communities

**Alabama:** State and Local First 10 and Transition to Kindergarten initiative

**Michigan:** First 10 pilot project in several urban and rural communities

**Massachusetts:** Two urban communities with long-standing initiatives

**Virginia:** Two Schools

# Evaluation Study Findings

Among other positive outcomes, First 10 sites:

- Addressed barriers that limit families' access to school readiness services.
- Increased collaboration between Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers.
- Aligned Pre-K and Kindergarten practices.
- Raised awareness of the importance of early learning through Parenting Campaigns.
- Improved collaboration among schools, early childhood programs, and community partners



# First 10 Key Resource Kit



Explore a collection of **key introductory resources** on First 10 to learn how First 10 works to support school-community partnerships in improving outcomes for thousands of children.

## AIR Evaluation of First 10 in Michigan

*(American Institutes for Research, 2023)* This evaluation brief shares findings from the first year of implementation in Michigan communities, including successes and challenges.



## The Power of First 10 Partnerships

*(Early Learning Nation, March 16, 2023)* in this two-part interview, David Jacobson describes the First 10 Approach and offers examples of First 10 work.



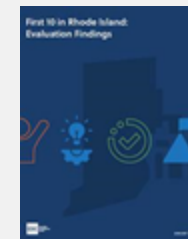
## Case Study: Building Systems that Work: First 10 in East Providence, RI

*(EDC, 2023)* This case study describes the successful strategies that a strong First 10 partnership in Rhode Island implemented.



## First 10 in Rhode Island: Evaluation Findings

*(EDC, 2024)* This evaluation describes First 10 progress in the communities of East Providence, Johnston, and Woonsocket.



## Four Strategies for Getting the First 10 Years of a Child's Life Right

*(Education Week, 2020)* David Jacobson outlines four important steps that successful First 10 schools and communities have taken to improve outcomes for children and families.



## First 10 in Action

*(2.5 min video)*



[go.edc.org/key-first10-resources](https://go.edc.org/key-first10-resources)

# Distinctive Characteristics: First 10

01

Collaboration across the full early childhood—elementary school continuum

02

Focus on teaching and learning, family partnerships, and comprehensive services

03

Use of leading edge strategies and practices

04

Capacity-building through school-based and community-wide structures

05

Use of focused, comprehensive plans and progress benchmarks to drive change

06

Emphasis on developing strong communities

# Thank You

David Jacobson

[djacobson@edc.org](mailto:djacobson@edc.org)

[First10.org](http://First10.org)



Current efforts

## First 10 Schools and Communities Pilot

Funded through the PDG B-5 grant, the pilot supports implementation of First 10 strategies in seven communities through a competitive grant awarded to elementary schools working in collaboration with at least one community partner. The pilot evaluation will inform Maine's ongoing efforts to sustain and expand First 10 strategies in our schools and communities.

### ✓ EDC Support across three years

- Annual First 10 Summit
- Quarterly Convenings
- Coaching

### ✓ Dedicated Local & State Positions

- Local First 10 Community School Outreach Coordinator for each site
- First 10 Community School Specialist at the DOE

### ✓ State-level cross agency team

- Supports coordination of state resources & initiatives
- Promotes programs that support the safety and well-being of children & families



## One Team – Many Initiatives



- Brings together DOE and DHHS staff involved in work related to the care and wellbeing of children and families
- Builds knowledge and understanding of the variety of initiatives that support children and families in the state
- Promotes coordination between initiatives to build collaboration and maximize impact
- Strives to reduce fragmentation and support community awareness of available resources
- Supports two-generational initiatives that are grounded in culturally responsive family partnerships

Together Everyone Achieves More!

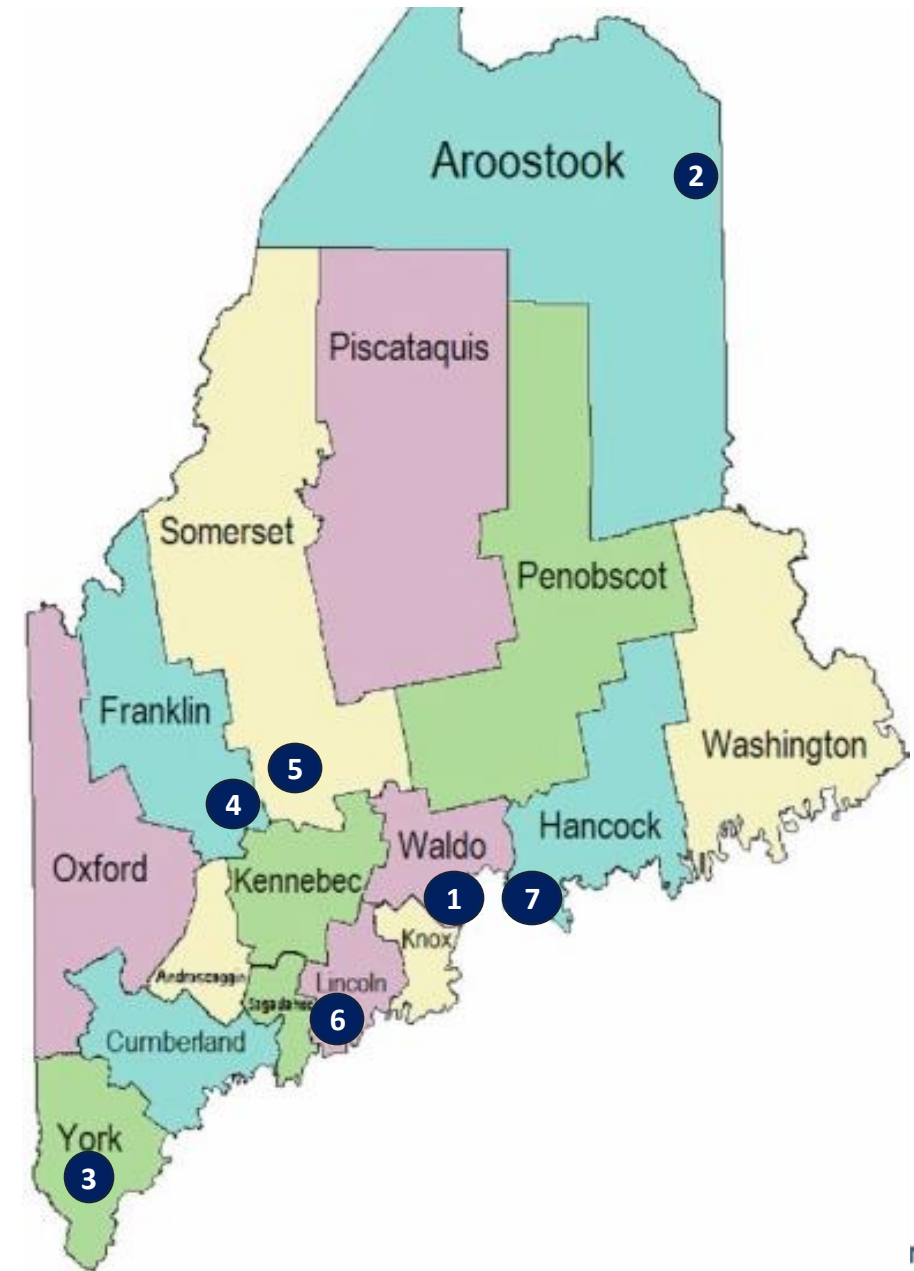
# Maine's First 10 Schools and Communities Pilot Sites

## Cohort 1:

1. East Belfast Elementary(RSU 71)
2. Limestone Community School & Dawn F. Barnes Elementary, Caswell
3. Sanford Pride Elementary

## Cohort 2:

4. Cape Cod Hill School (RSU 9)
5. (RSU 54) Skowhegan
6. Wiscasset Elementary
7. Deer Isle-Stonington & Sedgwick (SU76)





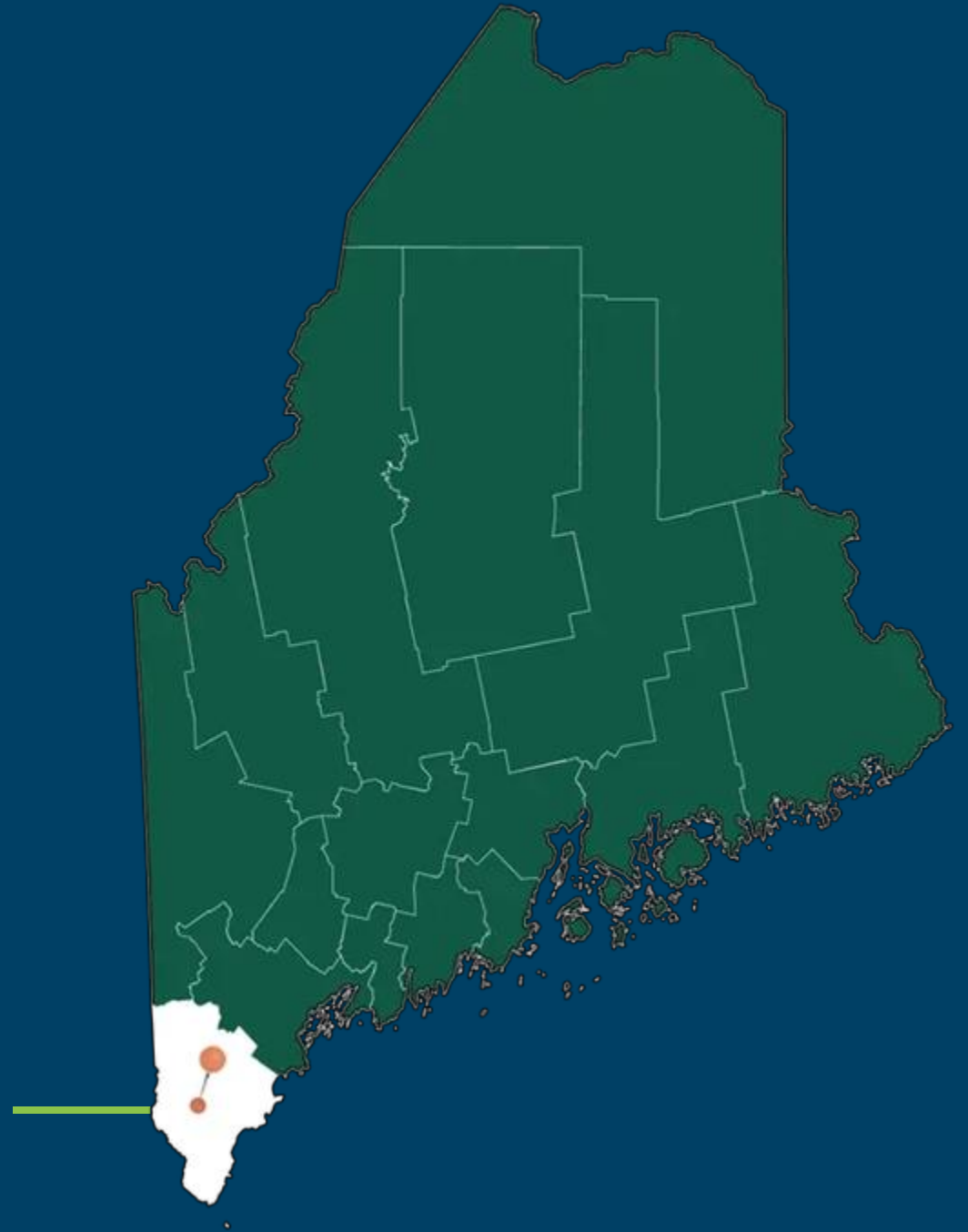
## Building Connections

- State sponsored initiatives
- Prevention Councils
- Recreation Departments
- Libraries
- Local Businesses
- Housing Authorities
- Community Action Agencies
- Civic Organizations
- Faith-based Organizations



# Sanford Maine

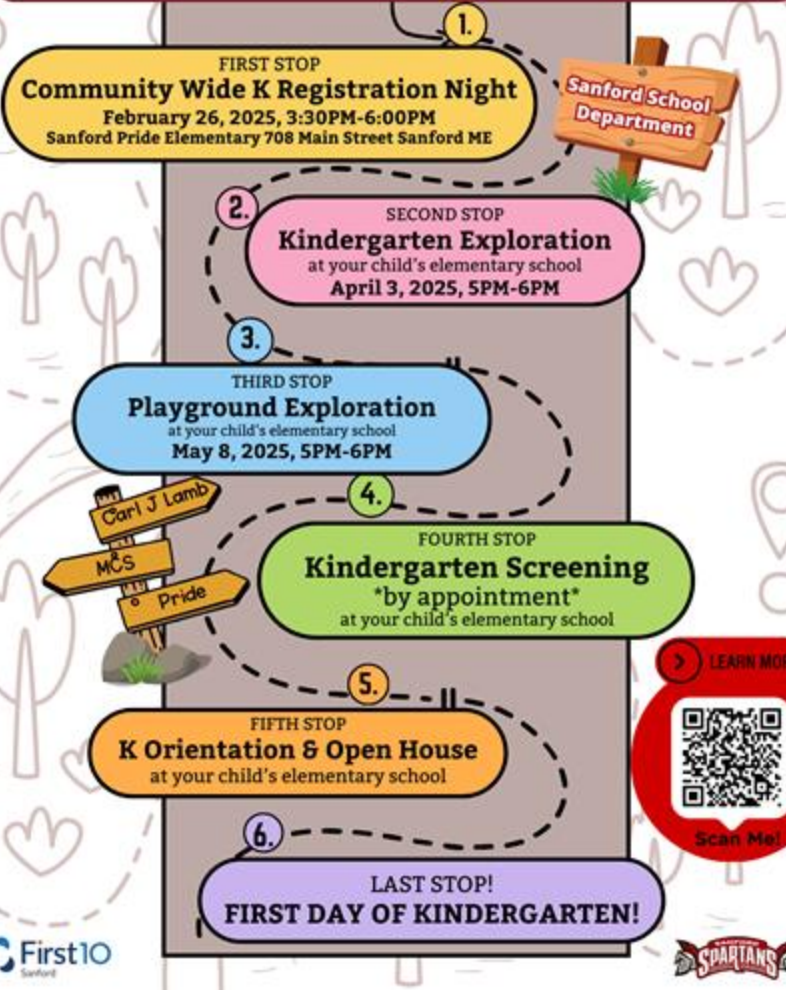
- Located in Southern Maine
- Population: 22,266 (2022)
- 3 Elementary schools



# Transition to Kindergarten

## HIKE THE KINDERGARTEN TRAIL

SANFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU AND YOUR LITTLE EXPLORER TO CHECK OUT ALL THE "STOPS" ALONG THE KINDERGARTEN TRAIL!



### BEST BOOKS FOR YOUNG SANFORD READERS

- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr.
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- The Family Book by Todd Parr
- When Sophie Gets Really Really Angry by Molly Bang
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
- Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes
- The King of Kindergarten/The Queen of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes
- The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Can you read them all?

March 2024

### TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD

Reading aloud from the very beginning is one of the most important things we can do to prepare children to do well in school. Reading together builds language skills, sparks their imagination, creates bonds, and lasting family memories.



Have a routine. Try to read together.

**WARM UP.** Check out the cover. Read the title. Look at pictures. Ask your child what they think the story is about.

**CHANGE YOUR VOICE.** Make the book extra interesting by trying different voices for different characters

**PAUSE FOR NEW WORDS.** Books are a great way to learn new words. Talk about words your child doesn't know.

**ASK QUESTIONS THAT DON'T HAVE "YES" OR "NO" ANSWERS.** "What do you think will happen next?" or "Why is this girl happy?" After asking, wait 5 seconds before saying anything else to give your child time to think and respond.

**TALK ABOUT FEELINGS.** Point to a person in the book and ask, "How is he feeling?" When your child responds, ask if they have a guess about why.

**MAKE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS.** Look for story connections. For example, "Do you remember when we made soup? What did we put in ours?"

**SWITCH ROLES.** Pick a favorite book and have them "read" the story to you. They can describe what is happening in the pictures.



## SANFORD COMMUNITY WIDE KINDERGARTEN 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION EVENT

Join Us for the first stop on the trail to Kindergarten!

**FEBRUARY 26TH, 2025**  
**3:30PM-6PM**

Sanford Pride Elementary  
 708 Main Street Sanford, ME 04073

Children 5 years of age on or before October 15th are eligible to register

Bring proof of residency and Child's birth certificate

COMPLETE K REGISTRATION

MEET TEACHERS AND STAFF

MEET COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

BACKPACK PROGRAM FOOD DISTRIBUTION

For more info: [www.sanford.org](http://www.sanford.org) | [spalmer@sanford.org](mailto:spalmer@sanford.org)

Current Sanford School Department Pre-K students are automatically enrolled for next year, but are welcome to attend



# Joint Professional Learning



## CROSS SITE VISITS

EXPECTATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

### Purpose

Cross site classroom visits are valuable opportunities for professional development in early childhood education settings.

### Goals

- Cross Site visits promote collaboration and shared learning across our communities lifespan.
- They provide fresh perspectives on teaching methods
- These visits support professional growth and school improvement
- They can support connections with students and families

### Expectations

#### For visiting teachers:

- Be respectful and professional
- Minimize disruptions to the host classroom
- Take detailed notes on observations
- Focus on predetermined objectives
- Engage in post-visit reflection to ask questions, share inspiration etc.

#### For hosting teachers:

- Welcome visitors warmly
- Continue with regular classroom activities
- Be open to questions and feedback
- Share resources or materials if appropriate

### Benefits

1. Exposure to diverse teaching styles and strategies
2. Opportunity to observe age-appropriate practices in action
3. Fostering a culture of continuous improvement
4. Building a supportive professional community
5. Enhancing self-reflection on teaching practices

# Family Partnership

The Basics SANFORD  
2025 FAMILY POP-UP EVENTS

SANFORD FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO A

## PAJAMA POP-UP

CHILDREN AGES 2-6



MARCH 4TH | 6PM | ON ZOOM

LOG ON FROM HOME WITH YOUR GROWN-UP IN YOUR FAVORITE PAJAMAS

EARLY EDUCATORS WILL READ A BEDTIME STORY, SHARE SLEEP TIPS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL BEDTIME ROUTINES!

BRING YOUR FAVORITE STUFFED ANIMAL TO INTRODUCE TO THE GROUP

### SANFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

# Play & Learn

Join early educators for a **FREE** 6 week **Play and Learn** series!

Children aged 0-4 years old and their caregivers will have an opportunity to learn, play, and build connections each week.

Multiple sessions will be offered this year, **complete the interest survey to learn more** and be notified of our next series.

Simple activities like these can boost brain development and help to prepare children for Kindergarten and beyond. Sign up for individualized tips and activities sent directly to your phone, [HERE](#)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Look at aisle numbers when grocery shopping this week to practice numbers	3 Try building a calming corner together, practicing using it when having big feelings	4 Sing "The 5 Little Snowmen" and make up simple motions together	5 Use a spray bottle and have a toy car wash	6 Read "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats ★ Sanford Top 10 Book ★	7 Play Peek-a-boo with infants and toddlers	8 Read a favorite book together and try to add 2 movements into the story
9 Cook or bake something together today	10 Check out Baby Steps Series at Sanford Library Mondays 10AM-12PM	11 Check out Family Steps Series at Sanford Library Tuesdays 10-12:30AM	12 Build a block tower as tall as your child and compare it to other things in the room	13 Make cards together for loved ones	14 Put your love into words, share 5 things you love about your child	15 Have a family game night, try Candyland, matching game or Simon Says
16 Read a new story together	17 Play a family game of I Spy, spy RED objects.	18 Color together for at least 15 minutes	19 Try to spot the letter "A" at home and in the community	20 Have a musical parade. (you can even make the instruments)	21 Bring a bowl of snow inside and play together	22 Sing a favorite song or nursery rhyme together
23 Pair socks together when doing laundry	24 Do something for yourself today—take a walk, listen to music, etc.	25 Have your child choose 10 things around the room and put them in different orders and groups	26 Community Wide Kindergarten registration 3:30-6 PM at Sanford Pride	27 Practice 1 dressing task, try putting shoes on or zipping your coat	28 Take notice when your child is trying something new or hard and praise them	

## THE BASICS at the GROCERY Store

**Count**  
how many items you put in your cart  
talk about the aisle numbers

**Group**  
types of fruits or veggies  
sort items by size at check out

**Compare**  
colors of peppers  
sizes of apples

# Community Connection

## SANFORD COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE



- 1 OPEN UP YOUR PHONES CAMERA
- 2 SCAN THIS QR CODE
- 3 CLICK THE LINK THAT APPEARS
- 4 BOOKMARK THIS PAGE



## SANFORD BUS STOP POP-UP

BRINGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO YOU

THURSDAY  
MAY 23

Interested in learning more about school initiatives and United Way programs like Kindergarten Registration, Community Play & Learns, Childcare Incubator, and more? We're bringing this information to your bus stop on May 23 between 7:15 & 8:15.



COFFEE & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!

Questions? Contact [ralfredson@uwsme.org](mailto:ralfredson@uwsme.org) or [spalmer@sanford.org](mailto:spalmer@sanford.org).



## First 10 Sanford November Newsletter

First 10 engages communities in building partnerships and creating systems that help collaborate to improve teaching and learning, coordinate comprehensive services, and partner with families. When schools, communities and families partner together all children can learn and thrive. Find out more, [here](#).

### NOVEMBER UPDATES

- Sanford's First 10 team hosted a joint professional learning session last month with our community early learning centers, the Maine Department of Education and The Educational Development Center to help strengthen our relationships and practices of educators working with children ages 0-7 in our community.
- We currently have two School Connected Play and Learns running with children ages 0-4 at SCAE and Sanford Pride Elementary, slots are still available for more families.
- We are continuing efforts around Sanford's Transition to Kindergarten practices, coordinating community resources, and building partnerships.



is part of a nationally recognized initiative that focuses on early brain development using these five principles:

- Maximize Love, Manage Stress
- Talk, Sing, and Point
- Count, Group, and Compare
- Explore through movement and play
- Read and Discuss Stories

The Basics Sanford is on Facebook & Instagram

FOLLOW US

### SANFORD RESOURCE GUIDE

SCAN ME!



DID YOU KNOW?

Sanford has a list of 10 high quality books for young readers? [click here](#)

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- We are always looking for engagement in our Play and Learns!
  - We need families, facilitators, presenters and snack donations for our little learners.
- Please share projects, resources, events or activities happening in our community that support children and families! We would love to collaborate and help spread the word!
- Follow, Engage and Share The Basics Sanford social media!
- Check out the 10 High Quality Books & More!

CONTACT US

[spalmer@sanford.org](mailto:spalmer@sanford.org)



## Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

### LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Decoding NAEP: Who's "Below Basic" And Why?

Tuesday, February 11, 3:00 - 4:30 pm ET/12:00 - 1:30 pm PT

### LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Decoding NAEP: Attendance Matters

Tuesday, February 18, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. ET/12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PT

### LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Decoding NAEP: Different Contexts, Different Results?

Tuesday, February 25, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. ET/12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PT

### PARTNER WEBINAR

For-Profit Child Care: Implications, Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday, March 4, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. ET/12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PT

