



# ROADMAP TO SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLING

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# OVERVIEW

Microschooling is an updated version of the one-room schoolhouses which dotted the American Frontier throughout the 19th century. It is not constrained by a strict set of definitions.

Partnership microschooling is ideal for local government entities or family-friendly employers/associations who contract with nonprofits or experts to be responsible for teaching and learning via active partnerships that utilize available assets (facility, technology, etc.) to prioritize budgets and manage costs.

Microschooling's powerful potential is possible because each can be designed around the particular needs of individual learners. Inherent flexibilities allow constant adjustments and continuous improvement, such as changing curricular components midyear or adding elements like writing/composition interventions.

# OBJECTIVE

MicroschoolingWV is working to create a community of partnership microschooling environments, with a focus on West Virginia and expanding nationwide.

These microschools will offer quality educational options for the children who attend, and will provide an outstanding benefit to the residents, employees, and members of the associations who offer these microschools. Our aim is to support you during each step of your microschooling journey.

# WHY START A MICROSCHOOL?

**At MicroschoolingWV, 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 whether you are a local government, an employer, or the head of an association, the benefits that you will be offering your families, employees, and members will help you with satisfaction and retention.

# WHY PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLS?

1

## POPULAR SCHOOLING SOLUTIONS BENEFIT WORKFORCE

Microschooling schedules can be built around your needs, including the schedules of your employees, members, or residents. It builds a stronger community in your organization, and allows your families to commit to your organization. Partnership microschooling provides you with a chance to be responsive to some of the people that are most important to your success, your families.

2

## DESIGNED AND OPERATED AROUND YOUR NEEDS

Microschooling's greatest strength may be that each microschool can, and should, be flexible enough to make changes as needed. When the individual overseeing your microschool sees something that could be made better, they have the freedom and flexibility to make these changes so that your microschool can evolve with the needs of your families.

3

## COST-EFFECTIVE

The microschooling model utilizes available assets, such as facilities and technology, to keep costs down. In addition, partnering with us allows us to offer you world-class learning tools at low or no cost.

4

## ENHANCED LEARNING

The children in your microschool will have a quality educational experience unlike any they have ever known. The existing relationships help to build this, and as the families experience this new-to-them way of schooling, these relationships will be enhanced.



# 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. We can also help you design your program around these needs. 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 budgeting, planning, choosing instructional options, planning initial assessments for learners, understanding student data, setting up space, creating policy and procedure manuals, 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. We can also hold focus groups to help you better understand the needs of your families.

## LEARNER INTAKE & BASELINE ASSESSMENT HELP

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

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We offer professional development for your microschooling team, which includes training directly from us, as well as training from some of our partners, such as curriculum developers and microschooling leaders and guides.



# ROADMAP TO STARTING

1

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Set-up an initial call or meeting with our microschooled team. We'll talk more about what partnership microschooled is, align on your priorities for your microschooled, answer any questions you have, and clarify next steps.

2

## VIABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

Help you budget and plan based on current resources and needs. Consider what resources your organization can apply, such as facilities, technology, IT resources, and staffing. There are a variety of ways to make what you already have access to work for you, and we can help in this planning phase to come up with creative solutions.

3

## PREPARE A SPACE

Whether in an empty office space, government owned buildings such as recreation centers and libraries, or elsewhere, you'll need to optimize your space for learning. Consider what supplies you'll need, what technology you will provide, and what kind of environment you'd like to create.

4

## LEARNING TOOLS AND TRAINING THAT WORK FOR YOU

We work with you to review and select learning tools that work for you. We can also hold focus groups with your families to determine their needs. Considering each microschooled leader's unique situation, it's important to develop professional enrichment that works for you. We will plan meaningful professional development for your team. These sessions can include working with our team, as well as working with curriculum developers. We will work with your microschooled leaders and teaching staff.

5

## ASSESSMENTS AND GOAL SETTING

Getting goals right matters. Consider your goals and the goals of your learners. We can discuss goal setting strategies, including how to get children and family buy-in. We will also help your microschooled leader understand assessment results and assist in placement making decisions if needed.

# LEARNING TOOLS

While your options are vast, the choices below are the curricula and learning tools that we have a high degree of confidence in.

A beautiful strength of microschooling 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:

## CADENCE LEARNING

Cadence Learning is a great choice for any microschool that will host same-age groups in grades 3-8. The model uses a variety of student-driven, personalized learning platforms, and also emphasizes daily, guide-led instructions and diverse activities like movement and mindfulness.



Our team is impressed with this middle school curriculum, for grades 6-8, for a variety of reasons, including its consistent structure and assessment strategy, and we think you will also.



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.



With a singular focus on literacy, Lexia is can meet structured literacy needs with a wide range of content to support children and learning guides. Lexia tools supports tracking academic growth and goal setting.



Prenda is well-suited for microschools that will host multi-age groups or early primary grades. Prenda focuses on student-centered goal-setting. The learning environment utilizes a combination of online platforms and guide-led enrichment activities each day.



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.

# 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

## HOW IS PICKUP AND DROP OFF HANDLED?

Safely ensuring that children are picked up from and dropped off to the microschool location is important. We can help you create a binder that has the necessary information for handling these procedures. An available staff member can easily handle signing children in, as well as checking ID's and signing children out.

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!



### **DON SOIFER**

don@nevadaaction.org  
202-360-8392



### **ASHLEY CAMPBELL**

ashley@nevadaaction.org  
702-300-0340

**MICROSCHOOLINGWV IS AN INITIATIVE OF NEVADA ACTION FOR SCHOOL OPTIONS.  
VISIT US AT [MICROSCHOOLINGWV.ORG](https://microschoolingwv.org) AND [NEVADACTION.ORG](https://nevadaaction.org)**