

The Early Learning Network is examining why many children—especially those from low-income households or other disadvantaged backgrounds—experience academic and social difficulties as they transition from preschool to elementary school.

Network researchers are examining current policies and practices; identifying malleable factors associated with early learning; documenting student growth and development; and developing tools to assess early learning instruction, interactions and environments.

## About the Network

The Early Learning Network is funded by the **Institute of Education Sciences**. Research and assessment teams are located at universities and research organizations across the country and will conduct research over a five-year period.

**The Network is comprised of:**

### 5 RESEARCH TEAMS

**MDRC / Ohio State University / University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill / University of Virginia**

Five research teams are conducting three complementary, prospective studies:

1. A descriptive study of systems-level policies and practices that support early learning;
2. A classroom observation study to identify teaching practices and other classroom-level malleable factors associated with children's school readiness and achievement in preschool and early elementary school; and
3. A longitudinal study to identify malleable factors associated with early learning and school achievement over time from preschool through the early elementary school grades.

### 1 ASSESSMENT TEAM

**University of California, Irvine**

The assessment team is developing a classroom observation tool for practitioner use to assess aspects of classroom quality that are associated with positive academic and social-behavioral outcomes in preschool and early elementary school.

### 1 NETWORK LEAD TEAM

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

The lead team is coordinating and facilitating collaborative work across research and assessment teams, disseminating Network findings and providing technical assistance to practitioners.

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## Preschool Development Grants

The ELN will support **Preschool Development Grantees** by enhancing their capacity to conduct high-quality program evaluations.

Technical assistance and informational activities will be provided via annual workshops, webinars, website content and individualized support. Themes and topics of interest will be identified by PDG group members and other early childhood practitioners.