

Early Learning Corps Fact Sheet

What are Early Learning Corps services?

- Early Learning Corps is an evidence-based, people-powered program that can meet the needs of all students. We train and support Interventionists to deliver the critical language, literacy and numeracy skills preschool children need to be ready for Kindergarten. Interventionists work hand-in-hand with classroom teachers to deliver research-based interventions in the classroom, in small groups, or one-on-one with children.
- The Early Learning Corps model supports the implementation of a Response to Intervention (RTI)/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework in early childhood. Simply put, this model includes implementing Tier I class wide literacy and numeracy strategies, as well as measuring students' literacy and numeracy skills using data to make instructional decisions for students.
- Early Learning Corps Interventionists provide support in both literacy and math, focusing on the skills listed below.

Early Language and Literacy Skills	Early Math Skills
Oral Language, Conversation, Comprehension	Subitizing
Vocabulary and Meaning	Object Counting
Book and Print Concepts	Counting Based Comparisons
Phonological Memory and Awareness	Number After Knowledge
Alphabetic Principle and Knowledge	Mental Comparisons
	Composing and Decomposing

Who are Early Learning Corps Interventionists?

- Early Learning Corps Interventionists are AmeriCorps members who focus on a societal problem – in this case, improving reading proficiency. AmeriCorps is often referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps.”
- Early Learning Corps Interventionists are individuals engaged in a commitment of service, during the school year, to meet the needs of their local communities through AmeriCorps and are commonly referred to as “members” or “Interventionists.”
- Early Learning Corps Interventionists maintain a stable, regular schedule of hours at their assigned service site and are supervised by an Internal Coach at the site.
- Although Early Learning Corps Interventionists are part of the school community, they are **not** employees of the school and/or district and they may **not supplant** services provided by the site employees.
- Interventionists receive a competitive living allowance and earn hours of service toward an education award to pay educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans. For member’s age 55 years+, this award may be gifted to a child, grandchild, foster child, or stepchild. Retired educators may serve as MEC Interventionist without forfeiting their pension.

Early Learning Corps Fact Sheet (continued)

Which students are eligible for Early Learning Corps services?

- The Early Learning Corps Interventionist is placed in one classroom and serves all the children in that room. An Interventionist can serve multiple sections of students, such as AM and PM, or M/W/F and T/TH.
- An Interventionist must be placed in a classroom that serves 3- to 5-year-old children, with priority on classrooms with 4- and 5-year-old children, as they are closer to entering Kindergarten.
- All students receive Tier I early literacy/numeracy support from the Interventionist. Children whose assessment data indicate a need for additional support will be eligible to receive Tier 2 (small group) or Tier 3 (individualized) instruction using evidence-based early literacy/numeracy strategies by the Interventionist.

What assessments are used by Early Learning Corps?

- The literacy assessment tool is the Preschool Early Literacy Indicator (PELI). The PELI assessment is designed for preschool and pre-kindergarten children (ages 3 to 5) and assesses alphabet knowledge, vocabulary and oral language, phonological awareness, and comprehension. The assessment is given in a storybook format that will be familiar to most preschoolers. The measure is untimed and takes about 15 minutes to administer per child.
- Benchmark assessments are administered by the Interventionist to all children in the classroom in the fall, winter, and spring.
- The Early Math Inventory (EMI) is used to assess numeracy skills in 3-5-year-old students. It is untimed, takes 5-10 minutes, and is administered in fall, winter, and spring to all students in the class.
- Children receiving Tier 2 or Tier 3 instruction receive brief progress monitoring checks every two weeks, or 8-10 sessions. The purpose of more frequent assessment is to gauge student progress, the effectiveness of the intervention, and support the team with instructional, data based decision-making.

What Tier 1 interventions are used by Early Learning Corps?

- Early Learning Corps Tier 1 interventions are designed to support core instruction in the classroom. The Early Learning Corps model works well with any research-based curriculum (e.g., Creative Curriculum, OWL, etc.).
- Early Learning Corps Interventionists provide embedded and explicit language, literacy, and math support to all students throughout their daily routines, including but not limited to: Arrival, Sign-in, Daily Message, Choice Time, High Quality Aloud, Tier 2 or Tier 3 Intervention time, Journaling, Meal Time, Small Group, and Transitions.
- Early Learning Corps classrooms are expected to incorporate a dialogic reading into the daily routine. The same theme-related book is read daily for one week. The teacher and interventionist incorporate talking, reading, writing, and math into each reading to develop vocabulary and comprehension and early math skills.

What Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions are used by Early Learning Corps?

- 7 children per class are identified to receive targeted literacy and/or numeracy interventions.
- Tier 2 = small groups of 2-3 children; 10-15 minutes daily.
- Tier 3 = One-on-one; 5-10 minutes daily

Tier 2 and Tier 3 Interventions:

- High Quality Read Aloud/Dialogic Reading: To increase vocabulary, oral language, and comprehension.
- Sound Awareness: To increase skills in auditory discrimination, including environmental sounds, rhyming, and alliteration.
- Letter Identification: To increase skills in auditory and visual discrimination, including letter names and letter sounds.
- Early Math (7 levels): To increase skills in early numeracy, including subitizing, object counting, counting-based comparisons, number after knowledge, mental comparisons, composing and decomposing, and number after equals one more.

Is Early Learning Corps a Good Fit for Your Site?

Early Learning Corps thrives in a wide variety of contexts. Please consider following before applying:

- ❑ Does your PreK program serve students ages 3-5? Priority will be given to classrooms with 4- and 5-year-old students.
- ❑ Is your site a Head Start, or GSRP school district early childhood programs, or nonprofit childcare programs (e.g., YWCA)?
 - For-profit childcare centers may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- ❑ Is student contact time sufficient for an Interventionist schedule (37.5 hours per week)?
- ❑ Is there support for research-based literacy and math interventions to occur during the school day?
- ❑ Is there a person on your staff with the interest, capacity, and time to serve as the Internal Coach?
Please go to page 9 for the “Description of Internal Coach” in this document and review it. Review this with the identified staff person in advance of applying to host MEC interventionist(s). Ensure they understand the role and time commitment.
- ❑ How will the Internal Coach's schedule include time for Early Learning Corps (approx. 6-9 hours per Interventionist per month, which is 2-3 hours per week)? How will the Internal Coach's schedule include approximately 5 hours of training?
 - Do you need to compensate the Internal Coach for the time completing required training?
 - Do you need to compensate the Internal Coach for time spent on Early Learning Corps duties throughout the year?
 - Are there tasks/duties/responsibilities that need to be removed from this individual's workload to accommodate Early Learning Corps duties?

Here are some other factors that are helpful to consider:

- ❑ What curriculum are you currently using, if applicable, and what assessments do you use and for what purpose?
- ❑ To which computer(s) or other device(s) would Interventionist(s) have regular, reliable access? Regular access to an electronic device is required and must include a camera and microphone, along with login credentials.

- What secure (locked) storage could the Interventionist utilize (for student files, for personal effects, etc.)?
- What is the lead classroom teacher's perspective on helping to implement Early Learning Corps in the classroom?
- Which classrooms with which teachers will be identified for Early Learning Corps Interventionist(s)?
- How is the Response to Intervention/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support model of service delivery utilized at your site?
- What is your current enrollment of preschool students? Do you predict noteworthy changes for next year?
- What local district or agency policies for partnerships will MEC need to follow? For example:
 - Background checks. MEC is required to run extensive background checks for any MEC Interventionist prior to placement in a school. MEC, nor Interventionists, may pay for additional background checks beyond what MEC is required to conduct. **If additional background checks are required, that will be a site cost.**
 - Interventionist Recruitment. How can we partner to post open Interventionist positions on a district or site employment page or share the opportunity on social media?
 - MEC Partner Sign. Our grant requires posting a sign (provided by MEC) with the AmeriCorps logo, Early Learning Corps logo, and potentially the logo of any funder who is sponsoring the program at your site. Where could this sign be posted? (Most sites post this sign at the main office or tutoring location).