



# ROADMAP TO SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLING

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# OVERVIEW

**Welcome to the most exciting movement in American education in a generation.**

Across the country, microschools are taking root. Small by design. Relationship-based. Built on a deep understanding of who each learner is and what they need to thrive.

Microschools are creating a transformative shift in teaching and learning. Flexible and responsive, they meet each child where they are in their learning trajectory. Microschool leaders foster close communities and culture.

**Partnership microschooling** brings this model to life through collaboration. It is especially powerful for local governments, nonprofits, employers, associations, and houses of worship that want to invest in education for the families who are important to them without becoming school operators themselves.

## GOALS

The National Microschooling Center is a home base for bold, community-rooted learning. We serve as a visible, steady force for microschool leaders, families and partners who are building a solution for their community and need guidance that holds up in the real world.

We support microschools to meet the educational needs of the organizations and families they serve in impactful ways. For most host partners, starting their own microschool to serve the families important to them is not anything they had ever considered. Microschools are not only very popular with families, they can be real value-creators for host partners. From first conversations to long-term sustainability, we walk alongside you at every stage, helping both host and technical partners achieve powerful solutions.

## WHY START A MICROSCHOOL?

**At the National Microschooling Center, we believe the best answer comes from understanding the specific needs of the children and families you want to support.**

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 there are a variety of benefits available to host partners. Not only are you serving families important to you, you are adding an important addition to your benefits package, finding new ways to serve your congregation and community, adding value for your association members, and so much more.

# WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

The **host partner** can be an employer, house of worship, association, library, city government, or other organization. They often provide the space which can be empty office or warehouse space, classrooms in a House of Worship building, a community center, or other available space. They may also provide other resources from their available assets that might include nonteaching staffing, technology, etc.

The **technical partner** provides the education expertise. They design the educational plan and oversee the day-to-day teaching and learning. They are responsible for tracking growth, communicating with families, and managing any teaching and learning staff.

## WHY PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOLS?

### 1 SERVING THE FAMILIES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Partnership microschooling gives host partners a powerful way to serve the families already connected to your community. By offering a high-quality, relationship-driven learning experience, partners strengthen trust, deepen loyalty, and increase long-term engagement. These schools also position host organizations as forward-thinking leaders, often generating positive visibility as they invest directly in the future of the communities they serve.

### 2 COST-EFFECTIVE

Partnership microschools are built on smart use of existing assets. By leveraging available space, technology, and operational support, costs remain manageable without sacrificing quality. Administrative burden is minimized for technical partners, and the National Microschooling Center further supports sustainability by connecting partners to affordable, high-quality learning tools, curricula, and operational resources.

### 3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Partnership microschools can be designed to do more than deliver academics. Many employers and associations are launching high school microschools that integrate hands-on training, industry-aligned credentials, and workforce pathways. The result is a learning environment that prepares students not just for graduation, but for meaningful careers and real-world opportunities.

### 4 MISSION FULFILLMENT, AMPLIFIED

Partnership microschooling allows host organizations to take their mission further than ever before. Instead of supporting families at the edges, you become part of their everyday lives. Learning becomes a direct expression of your values, whether that's community investment, workforce readiness, faith formation, civic leadership, or economic mobility.



# HOW CAN WE HELP?

The National Microschooling Center works alongside partners as a trusted guide. We help you assess the needs of your learners and families, clarify goals, and think strategically.

Our team supports both host and technical partners in identifying available assets, aligning roles, and designing a microschool program that works in practice. That includes everything from shaping the daily schedule and staffing approach to selecting learning tools, curriculum, and operational systems.

Through our national work, partners also gain access to meaningful cost-saving benefits. Because the Center evaluates, compares, and purchases tools at scale, we are able to unlock discounted access to high-quality curricula and learning resources. Those savings are passed directly to microschools and families, helping keep programs accessible without compromising quality.

## START-UP SUPPORT

The National Microschooling Center helps partners move from idea to launch with confidence. We connect host and technical partners when needed, help identify and align available assets, and support the creation of a sustainable operational plan. Our team works alongside all partners to clarify roles, establish shared expectations, and develop operating procedures that actually work day to day. The result is a strong foundation, clear agreements, and a microschool built to allow learners and partners to thrive.

## 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.

## TRAININGS

We offer trainings for microschooling leaders covering areas such as operational necessities, smart growth, alternative ways to measure effectiveness, and more.

## COMMUNITY

Access our community of microschool leaders and partners to share ideas and resources. We host in-person and online forums to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices, as well as creating a space for community-driven question and answers.





# ROADMAP TO STARTING

1

## **DETERMINE THE NEEDS OF YOUR COMMUNITY**

This stage is about understanding who and what matters most to your organization and the community you serve. It's a chance to reflect on the families you want to reach, the values and principles that guide your work, and the role learning can play in advancing your broader mission.

This step also invites thoughtful consideration of how a microschool can best serve your community, including the ages and stages of learners where impact would be most meaningful. When these elements are clear from the start, the microschool is better positioned to align with real needs, build trust, and grow with intention.

2

## **CONNECT WITH THE CENTER**

This is where ideas start to take shape. Reaching out to the National Microschooling Center opens the door to a real conversation about your goals, your community, and what's already in place. We'll talk through your needs, assess your current situation, and help clarify next steps. If a technical partner isn't identified yet, we can help make the right connection. From there, we move forward together, turning possibility into a clear path toward launch.

3

## **UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENTS**

Essential first steps include understanding your state's rules and requirements for nontraditional schooling options to make sure what you are building will comply. We can help you review what you need to know so you can make informed decisions that are right for you.

4

## **CREATE THE FRAMEWORK**

With the right partners at the table, the work becomes concrete. This phase brings host partners, technical partners, and the National Microschooling Center together to build the framework that will guide the microschool day to day. That includes developing the learning plan, outlining a realistic budget, and establishing clear policies and procedures through tools like a family and staff handbook. By building these elements collaboratively, partners create shared understanding, clear expectations, and a strong operational foundation that supports both learning and long-term sustainability.

5

## **TRAININGS, OPERATION, ITERATION AND CONTINUE SUPPORT**

Launching a partnership microschool is not the finish line, it's the beginning. The National Microschooling Center offers trainings for both host and technical partners, ensuring everyone understands their role and has the tools to succeed. As the microschool moves from planning into daily operation, we remain a consistent source of support, helping partners refine systems, adapt to real-world conditions, and problem-solve as needed. Whether support is hands-on or light-touch, we stay engaged through launch and beyond.

# LEARNING TOOLS

The National Microschooling Center secures district-only, bulk-requirement learning tools to provide access to small microschools.

Microschooling offers extraordinary flexibility, and with that comes a wide range of possible learning tools and curricula.

One of the defining strengths of microschooling is the ability to design learning around individual students, meeting them where they are academically and developmentally. With that in mind, these are some of the tools we often recommend and are happy to help integrate into your program. We work closely with technical partners to assess fit, explore options, and thoughtfully incorporate the resources that best support your learners, alongside any additional tools you may already be considering.

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1 DOES MY STAFF NEED TEACHING EXPERIENCE?**

No! The host partner staff does not need any teaching experience. The technical partner will often have teaching experience, though they may not need to have a current teaching license. We will work with both partners to ensure microschools are operating in the required frameworks and at a level that works for everyone's comfort.
- 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 can all be feasible options.
- 3 DO MICROSCHOOLS NEED TO STICK TO THEIR STATE'S ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS?**

Every state has different rules and requirements for nonpublic schools and homeschooling cooperatives. Depending on how you choose to operate (homeschool laws or nonpublic school) will determine if you need to align to specific content standards. Family comfort level, and access to learning tools, might factor into your decision as well.
- 4 HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

Depending on the format and services provided by you to your learners, the cost will vary. An important factor to consider is any potential school choice funding in your state. 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. This is something that can be worked out together with the host partner and technical partner when developing a budget.
- 5 HOW DOES A PARTNERSHIP MICROSCHOOL BENEFIT THE HOST PARTNER?**

A partnership microschool allows host partners to offer a real, tangible solution to a need in their community. For employers, it can increase employee satisfaction and productivity, reduce turnover, and strengthen recruitment by supporting working families in meaningful ways. For municipalities, it creates a flexible tool to better serve residents and respond to local education gaps. High school partnership microschools can also support workforce development by aligning learning with real career pathways.

For values- or principle-driven organizations, aligned partnership microschooling extends those principles into daily practice, deepening community impact and advancing mission fulfillment. In every case, the benefit is the same: a purpose-built educational option that strengthens relationships, supports families, and helps the host partner live out its mission in a lasting way.



# CONTACT US

## ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

You don't need all the answers to reach out. You don't even need to have all of the questions yet. Start the conversation and we'll help you sort through the options, together.



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