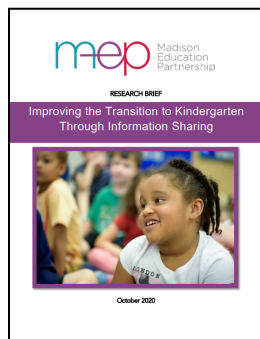


Remember The MEP Project: [Improving the transition to Kindergarten](#) (2020)

In 2020, [The Madison Education Partnership](#) (MEP) brought together educators from the [Madison Metropolitan School District](#) (MMSD) and researchers from WCER to learn about the current information-sharing practices and information gaps in the transition from 4K to 5K.



Key Learning:

- 4K and 5K teachers, especially those not working in the same school, communicate little about their students
- 4K and 5K teachers generally agree about what 5K teachers should know about their students
- Teachers report institutional and interpersonal barriers inhibit the sharing of information. These include trust, physical separation, and concerns about the ethical and legal deterrents to sharing information

Recommendations from research:

1. Develop an easily accessible, brief report for sharing information from 4K to 5K teachers
2. Build relational trust between 4K and 5K teachers to facilitate the flow of information
3. Inform principals about the information available to them to help them optimize 5K rosters

These forms were extremely helpful to see how students scored in assessments along with comments. The comments were particularly helpful, especially when they were thorough. It gave a great insight to the student as a whole and what strategies may be effective for them to be successful. -MMSD 5K Teacher

Research in Action:

After this MEP project concluded, MMSD leaders worked to put the recommendations into practice. Culleen Witthuhn (Director of Early Learning) collaborated with MMSD Technical Services and Research, Assessment & Improvement to develop a tool in EduClimber (a district data system) to share information from 4K to 5K. This tool built off the existing prototypes developed in MEP research. After piloting this tool during the 2022-2023 school year with over 1400 students and teachers, the team made adjustments to the tool and in the process for understanding the forms.



- [Presented on the form](#) to 4K teachers at a staff development day event
- Offered 5K teachers two extended employment opportunities to learn where to find the forms and view the forms
- Sent links to principals to help them find and review the 4K transition information ([4K-5K Transition Dashboard – in Data Dashboard 2.0. How to View Transition Forms for incoming Kindergarteners](#))
- Shared it in a spring Admin Bulletin (a weekly communication with school and central office leaders) to make sure they knew the form existed and could use it as a resource

After district-wide implementation in 2023-24, forms were completed for all 4K students (approximately 1,400). The Department of Early Learning plans to focus on providing professional development for 5K teachers to use the forms for the 2024-25 school year.