



May 8, 2020

To Hi5! community partners,

Congratulations on 10 years of your kindergarten registration and transition efforts through Hi5! Trying Together is proud to lead this work in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The transition to kindergarten marks an important moment in children's early learning experiences. When the Hi5! partnership began in 2010, we set out to improve on-time registration rates so districts could better plan for classrooms and families could feel more prepared. Through our efforts, we reported 96 percent on-time kindergarten registration in Allegheny County for the 2018-19 school year – compared to 13 percent when Hi5! efforts first began. Now, Hi5! has grown to provide more opportunities for pre-k teachers, kindergarten teachers, early childhood program directors, and school administrators to network and share best practices for kindergarten registration and transition. Over the past year, we have been able to engage more early learning programs through Preschool Development Grant funds and these programs attended the Fall Roundtable to jointly plan supporting kindergarten transition for their pre-k students.

Now more than ever, the partnerships and connections between early learning programs and school districts are important as we find ways to support young children and their families using developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices as they navigate kindergarten transition in these uncertain times.

Thank you to all of the educators, administrators, and community partners who support this work.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Cara Ciminillo'.

Cara Ciminillo
Executive Director, Trying Together

