Overview
The Partnership for Pre-K Improvement (PPI) is a program, advocacy, and research collaboration created to learn together with states about how to systematically improve pre-k quality.

Led by anchor partners the Ounce of Prevention Fund, the Alliance for Early Success, and Cultivate Learning at the University of Washington, and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, PPI partners with state agency leaders, advocates, and research partners in Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington to:

- Learn together with states about how to implement and improve high-quality, equitable pre-k systems.
- Develop strong program, advocacy, and research partnerships that sustain improvements.
- Create tools and generate knowledge to increase understanding of what drives improvement.

Research in PPI
Research in PPI takes several forms including:
- Tools to support high-quality pre-k
- Research-practice partnerships (RPPs)
- Formative evaluation
Cultivate Learning leads PPI’s efforts related to research and quality systems. This includes developing tools for the field and providing guidance for PPI’s research-practice partnerships.

**Implementation Development Map**
Cultivate Learning is developing the Implementation Development Map (IDM), a tool that will help inform future state efforts to build high-quality and effective state-funded pre-k systems.

**Case Study**
Cultivate Learning is conducting qualitative case studies, which will examine questions about how RPPs develop, evolve, and sustain over time, and the unique roles state-level RPPs may play in driving evidence-based improvements of state-funded pre-k.

**Research Practice Partnership Support for Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington**
RPPs are long-term, mutually beneficial collaborations between researchers and practitioners that promote the production and use of research for system improvement. Cultivate Learning supports the development of RPPs and learning agendas in Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, and creates opportunities for peer learning among research partner teams.

### Washington Research-Practice Partnership

The Washington Research-Practice Partnership (WA RPP) began in 2018 and is a collaboration between researchers from Cultivate Learning and Education Northwest, and state partners from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) responsible for Washington's state-funded pre-k program, the Early Care Education Assistance Program (ECEAP).

A learning agenda, which is a set of prioritized research questions, was developed in support of state strategic plans for pre-k improvement and to guide the work of the WA RPP.

### Formative Evaluation

Mathematica joined PPI in 2019 to conduct a formative evaluation of the PPI strategy. Mathematica is working with research partners to collect site leader/teacher survey data and classroom quality data (e.g., Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Environment Rating Scale (ERS)).