

A place to begin

Every microschool begins with a what if.

What if you could create a place where students feel known, curiosity has room to grow, and learning changes what they believe is possible?

Find your next three steps toward opening your microschool.

You do not need a finished idea to use this guide. Start with the school you can imagine, listen to the families you hope to serve, and choose one useful next action.

Your first win

Write one sentence about the student experience you want to create. It can be a working thought. You will have room to revise it.

I want students in my school to experience...

Keep this guide as a working document. Some answers will be decisions. Others will be questions worth exploring.

01 / Give your idea a shape

Start with the students.

Before the name, the logo or the space, name what matters about the learning experience you want to create.

What do you want students to believe is possible for themselves?

Which families and age range do you hope to serve?

What would an ordinary day feel like?

What should remain true as your school grows?

02 / Listen to your community

Find out before you assume.

Choose three families whose needs could help you understand your community. Have a listening conversation before asking anyone to commit.

Ask about the day

What does a good learning day look like for your child? What would you want more of?

Ask about trust

What would you need to see or understand before considering a different school?

Ask about practical needs

What would make a school workable for your family? Consider location, schedule and what you would need to learn about cost.

What patterns did I hear?

What assumption do I need to revisit?

Record themes here. Keep student names, medical information and other private details out of this worksheet.

Your first planning checklist.

For each area, mark one: exploring, a draft decision, or verified where needed. A completed checklist is not permission or certification to open.

☐ **Purpose and families**

Student experience, ages served, community needs and a listening plan.

☐ **Learning and evidence**

Daily rhythm, adult guidance, resources and how families understand progress.

☐ **People and partnerships**

Roles, skills, backup coverage, founder boundaries and community support.

☐ **Space and materials**

Learning areas, equipment, access, safety and insurance questions.

☐ **State and local requirements**

Your jurisdiction, appropriate school terminology and questions for qualified sources.

☐ **Money and timing**

Owner compensation, startup costs, recurring costs, tuition assumptions and when cash arrives.

☐ **Family trust and communication**

A clear invitation, response expectations and a separate secure records system.

☐ **Opening and ongoing support**

First priorities, responsibilities, support relationships and a plan to review what you learn.

04 / Protect the school and the founder

Make room for sustainability.

A school needs a plan for learning and a plan for paying the people and costs that make learning possible. Begin with questions you can answer honestly.

Start with four numbers

Planned capacity. Tuition and billing months. Recurring costs including your own pay. One-time opening costs. Write “unknown” when you need more information.

What costs continue when school is not in session?

What would change if fewer families enrolled than I hope?

When would payments arrive, and which bills come first?

List possible funding separately from confirmed money. Rules and eligibility vary by state. Use current official sources and qualified guidance before making financial commitments or promises to families.

05 / Choose your next actions

A clear next step is progress.

You do not need to solve the whole school today. Choose three actions that will teach you something or move an important decision forward.

1. My next action

Who will do it? _____ By when? _____

2. My next action

Who will do it? _____ By when? _____

3. My next action

Who will do it? _____ By when? _____

Before you finish: name one person or community you can bring your questions to. You do not have to carry every decision alone.

Keep building

Your idea deserves a thoughtful plan.

The next step is to connect your decisions: the community, learning model, people, space, communication and business behind your school.

The Microschool Blueprint

One \$97 monthly subscription, including Microschool OS. The Blueprint guides planning and opening. Microschool OS is the workspace for the business of running your school.

A plan you can return to

Build through four practical Jumpstart modules and keep your school decisions together.

People beside you

A Dream Conversation after joining, weekly Founders' Circle, an online community and a growing library.

Support beyond opening day

Mastermind becomes available after your first school day. Your support continues as the school grows.

The Blueprint builds it. The Microschool OS runs it.

Start building your school. Your first month is covered by a 30-day guarantee.

Planning resource, not legal or financial advice. Verify requirements for your state. Keep private student records in an appropriate separate system.