The Ecology Learning Center is committed to pursuing a mutually beneficial partnership with RSU 3, the school administrative unit where the proposed school is located.  The Center seeks to serve as a resource to all students. As such, and in keeping with the interdependence that is central to the Center’s theme, the ideal partnership would allow local students access to the best that both the Ecology Learning Center and RSU 3 have to offer, with each institution focusing on its distinct strengths.  The Center does not currently have a formal partnership with any school administrative unit, though communication between the Center and RSU 3 has been ongoing throughout the Center’s development process.

On February 13, 2018, the Center’s Executive Director Lisa Packard met with then superintendent of RSU 3 Paul Austin and assistant superintendent Jean Skorapa. Introductory information about the Center was made available, and the difference between charter and magnet schools was discussed.  Austin and Skorapa spoke positively about RSU 3’s programs, and Packard suggested consideration of specific ways in which the Center and the district might collaborate, such as special education services and transportation.

On May 17, 2018, Packard again met with Austin and Skorapa, along with Roger Brainerd and Judith Jones from the Maine Association for Charter Schools (MACS). The purpose of this second meeting was to give an update on the Center’s plans, and to discuss specific details about charter school establishment and funding.  Austin and Packard ended the meeting with an agreement to further discuss opportunities to collaborate in the future. Austin has since resigned from his position as superintendent.

RSU 3 Secretary to the superintendent Kaylene Miller has offered to schedule a meeting between Ecology Learning Center representatives and incoming superintendent Charles Brown after July 1, 2019, when his position officially begins.