

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

Get to Know Us

We know that high-quality early childhood education has lifelong impacts for our students. The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Collaborative is focused on ensuring students have access to high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood education to prepare them for PreK, elementary school, and beyond. The ECE Collaborative is the only forum in the nation for early learning leaders at state education agencies to collaborate, sharpen their skills, and expand their knowledge on early childhood education policy and practice. We are early childhood education directors and specialists who believe that every step in a child's education journey matters, and we're committed to helping children become the great students and citizens we know they can be.

Benefits of Our Collaborative

This Collaborative offers a venue to share expertise, elevate innovative ideas, and hear from fellow experts. Our members are leaders in the nationwide effort to improve the quality of early education and the outcomes for young learners. You'll take part in discussing some of the most pressing challenges in our field, and uncovering innovative solutions to help young children become capable learners. Last year, our members focused on the issue of leveraging state education staff to ensure access to high-quality developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive early child education programs. Here are just a few highlights:

- We met with leadership from the Head Start Office at the US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration of Children and Families and the Education Counsel for two roundtable discussions on Federal and state efforts to promote collaboration between local districts, Head Start, and early childhood education partners.
- The ECE Collaborative formed a workgroup to explore ways to create a balanced P3 assessment system statewide to improve assessment literacy among practitioners and better use of assessment for instructional purposes.

Our Focus in 2020-2021

We'll be laser-focused on the response to COVID-19, providing intensive support to address restart and recovery efforts for early learners. Our members will guide the national conversation around how early learning specialists at state education agencies can lead the way in shaping early childhood education policies after the pandemic. We will work to make sure that every kid has access to high-quality early childhood education. Through thought-provoking group discussion, in smaller working groups, and by hearing from experts and policy makers in the field, our members will tackle the challenge of identifying the policies and evidence-based practices that enhance learning opportunities for young learners.

Here's Where You'll Find Us

For the 2020-2021 program year, meetings will be held in-person when possible, and virtually when necessary due to safety. Any in-person meetings will also include the option to participate virtually. The Early Childhood Education Collaborative meeting dates and locations are not set yet but they will take place the:

- Week of September 28, 2021
- Week of January 25, 2021
- Week of May 24, 2021



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