Pre-K Inclusion Champions - Call to Action! Update

Growth Mindset Priority Area

The launch of the Call to Action for recruitment of Pre-K Inclusion Champions was very successful. This volunteer, Statewide Pre-K Inclusion Collaboration Team (PICT) will assist in the initial development, promotion, and implementation of a new Washington State Pre-K Inclusion Policy and companion resources for a Pre-K Inclusion Toolkit. There were more than 85 applications representing diverse family, school, and community systems. Next steps include (a) reviewing applicant profiles to ensure demographic balance, (b) drafting a PICT Membership Charter outlining time and task commitments for participant signature, and (c) preparing for the first in-person work session targeted for December 17, 2018 at the Capitol Region Educational Service District 113 located in Tumwater. Preparations for the work session will include identifying peer leaders to co-facilitate small group breakout sessions from the pool of PICT applicants who have direct hands-on experience with inclusionary early childhood practices. Early childhood leadership from the Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program and Head Start State Collaboration Office will be co-facilitating all aspects of the planning, development, and implementation activities leading to a Joint Position Statement on Pre-K Inclusion between the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

Ongoing Advisory Group Participation

Leadership Priority Area

The next meeting for the Early Hearing Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention (EHDDI) Advisory Group is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Kent. Karin Neidt, EHDDI Manager, facilitates the advisory group. Individual committees are in the process of being formed; we will have representation on the Early Intervention Full Enrollment Committee. Jean Marie Dymond, Grant Coordinator will convene the Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities (AS3D) Project Advisory Committee (PAC) virtually on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The focus of the meeting held in July 2018 was on “Working With Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families”. Guest speakers included Jihan Rashid from the Somalia Health Board and Hodan Mohamed from Open Doors for Multicultural Families. Resources to extend learning included Engaging Culturally Diverse Families For Student Success, a part of a Parent Voices on Parent Involvement video series located at https://www.pacer.org/cultural-diversity/. The next quarterly gathering of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) with the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Program under the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will be onsite at Joint Base Lewis-McCord on October 17, 2018.
IDEA Part B State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP): Pre-K Early Literacy Action Research Project

Evidence-Based Practices and Professional Development Priority Areas

The Pre-K Early Literacy State Design Team will be convening quarterly during the 2018-19 school year. Quarterly meeting dates include Friday, October 12, 2018; Friday, January 11, 2019; and Friday, March 8, 2019. Joint responsibilities of the 21-member State Design Team include:

- Promoting the blending of implementation functions across initiatives (e.g. common training for coaches, integrated professional development);
- Identifying gaps in infrastructure and problem-solving at a systems level to close those gaps (i.e. links among teacher expectations in classrooms with teacher preparation programs and certification);
- Creating, guiding, and continually improving implementation capacity at all levels;
- Promoting aligned data collection systems to evaluate implementation and impact outcomes;
- Regularly communicating, timely problem solving, and using data for decision-making;
- Networking to ensure cross-sector projects/initiatives are understood and supported by fellow team members; and
- Operationalizing practice to policy and policy to practice feedback loops at the State and regional levels.

Expanded membership for the 2018-19 program year included representatives from local school districts, state-funded Pre-K, parent advocacy constituents, and institutes of higher education. New members serving on the State Design Team include Connie Kliewer, NorthEast Washington (NEW) ESD 101; Xyzlora Brownell, Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program; Carol Miller, Franklin Pierce School District; Mary Waldron, Puget Sound ESD 121; Dr. Laura Matson, Puget Sound ESD 121; Adrienne O’Brien, Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Program; Cheryl Vance, Capitol Region ESD 113; and Cathy Garland, Head Start State Collaboration Office; Dr. Angel Fettig, University of Washington; Rosslyn Bethmann, Partnerships For Action-Voices for Empowerment (PAVE); and Carole Brewer and Elaine Kurlinski, both with eLearning For Educators with the Evergreen State College.
Request for Application – Statewide Implementation of the Pyramid Model within Preschool Programs

Evidence-Based Practices and Professional Development Priority Areas

The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for Intensive Technical Assistance related to Statewide Implementation of the Pyramid Model within Preschool Programs. The purpose of the RFA is to invite states to participate in an implementation and scale-up training and technical assistance opportunity designed to promote the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of children ages 3 through 5 years of age participating in preschool programs and receiving IDEA Part B, 619 services. The goal of the State/NCPMI partnership is to plan, implement, and sustain a professional development system to build the capacity of local programs and professionals to use the Pyramid Model in the coaching of service providers to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of children 3-5 years of age with or at risk for disabilities in inclusive environments. NCPMI is offering one teleconference call to answer questions for interested states on October 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. PDT. Given that this Intensive Technical Assistance opportunity is designed for states with little or no current statewide Pyramid Model efforts, we are in a strong strategic position, should we submit an application. The application deadline is December 1, 2018. Selected states will be notified by December 5, 2018 and technical assistance begins December 2018. There would be excellent correlations between this opportunity and the Pre-K Inclusion Initiative and the SSIP Pre-K Early Literacy Action Research Project already underway.

Preschool Development Grant – Birth to Five (PDG: B-5) Opportunity Update

Resource Allocation Priority Area

Early childhood leaders within DCYF, in partnership with OSPI, is moving forward with an application for a discretionary, ESSA-funded Preschool Development Grant: Birth through Five project available through the Administration for Children and Families. A Core Strategy Team was convened on Friday, October 5, 2018 to continue strategizing key project activities within a drafted Theory of Action. Additional stakeholder involvement opportunities will be taking place throughout the month of October across multiple sectors of the early childhood and parent involvement communities. Kelli Bohanon, Director of Early Learning for DCYF noted that the first year of the grant is focused on state planning, needs assessments, and implementing strategies to prepare for implementation of actual services. Successful first year applicants will be eligible for actual Birth-Five services in the second year (which would be a second application process). The total application, due on or before November 6, 2018, is likely to be close to the 15 million range.

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