



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is committed to ensuring early childhood education (ECE) educators have the knowledge they need to support young children as they learn and grow. Foundational coursework and degree attainment along with ongoing continuing education are essential to this process.

WHAT

Professional development (PD) is moving to a system that increases opportunities for early childhood educators to find and obtain credit bearing coursework that meets the needs of early educators in delivery methods, location, and content.

WHY

Strengthening the knowledge, skills and competencies of early childhood educators will improve the early learning experience of children and families across the commonwealth. As more and more ECE professionals earn their degrees, the field will continue to grow and be recognized professionally.

HOW

Professional Development Organizations (PDOs) and Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRCs) will support and guide early childhood educators to identify and attain their PD goals. The PDOs will match individuals with access to credit-bearing course content with clearly articulated and supported pathways to degree attainment for early childhood educators in Pennsylvania. ELRCs provide coaching supports, PD directly related to regulatory compliance, and help locating additional PD resources.

WHO

The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) dollars are funding PDO efforts and specifically focused on enhancing the knowledge and education of child care professionals in Pennsylvania. However, the systems and career pathways that are supported through PDOs are accessible to early childhood educators outside of child care through other funding.

WHERE

PDOs will coordinate with ELRCs and operate across Pennsylvania to address the regional needs of early childhood educators.

WHEN

Pennsylvania's child care and ECE professionals will be able to take advantage of new opportunities through the PDOs as early as January 2020.