



NC RTT-ELC

April Spotlight

April 27, 2015

Head Start Professional Development Support for Family Engagement

Unique Family Engagement Model for Professional Development Inspired by Strong Partnerships in North Carolina

Through the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, North Carolina has developed a unique model for providing professional development statewide to early childhood educators. North Carolina is leveraging the family engagement strengths of Head Start and Early Head Start programs to build the capacities of non-Head Start early childhood educators across the State to provide high quality family engagement and support activities. Local Head Start and Early Head Start grantees provide training, coaching and follow-up as needed to non-Head Start colleagues in multi-county “hubs” across the State. Early childhood partners are being supported as they strengthen service delivery leading to positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and deeper family connections to communities.

The model has successfully prepared trainers and coaches within the Head Start hubs and has provided training to over 1,300 providers statewide who report changes in their practice as a result of the family engagement training. In addition, relationships between the Head Start and non-Head Start early childhood communities in the

state have been strengthened. North Carolina is well positioned to provide ongoing support using this model as expected revisions to the NC Star Rated License continue to be developed that will include family engagement. Success suggests that replicating this model to address additional professional development needs is a strategy worthy of consideration going forward in North Carolina.

More information about this project and others in North Carolina can be found at www.earlylearningchallenge.nc.gov.

NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS) Presented at National Meeting

Exemplars from an ECIDS: Implementing Appropriate Technology to Make Informed Decisions, Bethesda, Maryland

North Carolina's RTT-ELC grant is funding a project to build an early childhood integrated data system, known as the NC ECIDS. This project will integrate education, health and social service data on children birth to age five from participating State agencies. Last month, NC ECIDS staff was invited to present at an Early Childhood Integrated Data System meeting in Bethesda Maryland. The meeting, Exemplars from an ECIDS: Implementing Appropriate Technology to Make Informed Decisions, was held in conjunction with the 2015 Best Practices Conference, an annual conference for states building longitudinal data systems. North Carolina was one of four states showcased during the ECIDS meeting, attended by states from across the nation that are in the process of building early childhood data systems. NC ECIDS staff provided an overview of the data system, including the governance structure and types of reports that the system will produce. The presentation also highlighted potential reports and research that will be possible once NC ECIDS is developed, using the Infant Toddler Part C and IDEA Part B services, programs that serve children with disabilities, as examples of programs that would greatly benefit from an integrated data system.

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