

Regional Contact: Anne Short

Region #: 11

Counties included in this region: Burke, Avery, McDowell, Caldwell, Mitchell, Yancey

Region 11 Early Childhood Professional Development Local Action Plan

VISION: In 2015 all early childhood teachers are ethical and educated professionals who claim ownership of early childhood as a profession and are committed to life-long learning.

Key Area	Goal	Strategy	Partners	Timeline	Estimated Cost
Access	State: Provide state level leadership from the Division of Child Development, the Community College system and other agencies for support of quality delivery of distance education courses via the community colleges or universities	Provide training for community college instructors to design classes online and create an interactive student community Review course descriptions to align them to the community college course improvement project recently completed	Lead Agency: State Supporting Partners:	Target Date: July 1, 2011	Moderate cost
	Regional: All early educators will have access to a professional development specialist in collaboration with a local community college to assist them in developing and implementing individualized professional development plans. .	Advocate for professional development specialists on a statewide basis.	Lead Agency: Community College Supporting Partners: Smart Start Child Care Resource & Referral agencies Institute for Child Development Professionals	Target Date: July 1, 2011	Moderate cost
	Regional: All early educators in the region enrolled in professional development opportunities will have access to the Internet and to a computer.	Create a resource list of points of access in community wi-fi sites, computer labs, community programs. Identify local programs	Lead Agency: Community College Professional Development Specialists Supporting Partners:	Target Date: December 2010 :	No cost

		that refurbish/distribute/loan computers to agencies and individuals throughout the region.	Child Care Resource and Referral agencies		
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Continuing Education	Regional: Opportunities to develop computer competency will be provided for all students enrolled in any level of early childhood professional development.	Require a standardized computer class or demonstrated proficiency for first-time students who access on-line courses.	Lead Agency: Community College Supporting Partners: Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Smart Start partnerships Child Care providers	Target Date: July 2011	Low cost
	Regional: Early educators will identify and utilize community resources for development of basic computer skills.	Create a resource guide to identify local resources and programs in libraries, churches, agencies, etc. to identify opportunities for computer skill development.	Lead Agency: Child Care Resource and Referrals Agencies Supporting Partners: Public libraries Community College libraries Churches Community agencies	Target Date: July 2011 :	No cost
	Regional: Financial resources will be expanded to support early childhood educators advancing their education.	Develop vouchers to pay for curriculum classes, including remedial classes. Request T.E.A.C.H. to offer both individual and center-based funding options. Expand lending libraries to support individual pursuit of early childhood education opportunities.	Lead Agency: Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Supporting Partners: Community Colleges Smart Start partnerships T.E.A.C.H. administrators	Target Date: July 2011	Moderate cost

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Compensation	State: Secure legislative funding for professional development supplements	<p>Develop and implement an advocacy program targeting state legislators to gain support for professional development funding supplements</p> <p>Develop and implement a public awareness campaign to build community support for the importance of early childhood education.</p>	<p>Lead Agency: NC Institute for Professional Development</p> <p>Supporting Partners: Child Care Resource and Referral agencies Child Care Providers</p>	Target Date: July 1, 2015	<p>High cost</p> <p>Low cost</p>
	State: Early educator salaries will mirror public school teacher compensation levels commensurate with education and experience.	Coordinate efforts to fund both state WAGE\$ and local Smart Start professional development support	<p>Lead Agency: Division of Child Development NC Institute for Professional Development</p> <p>Supporting Partners: Child Care Providers</p>	Target Date: July 1, 2015	High cost
	Regional: Maintain and enhance salary supplements for early educators that recognize higher levels of education and professional development for early educators.	<p>Maintain and enhance WAGE\$ program.</p> <p>Maintain and enhance locally-funded supplements supported through Smart Start partnerships.</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Smart Start Partnerships Child Care Resource and Referral agencies</p> <p>Supporting Partners:</p>	Target Date: July 1, 2012	Moderate cost

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Professional Standards	Regional: Maintain a positive approach to coordinated planning in the region by creating a regional professional development coordination committee	Tap representatives from individuals and agencies involved in professional development who can share and coordinate professional development efforts to set priorities for regional activities.	Lead Agency: Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Supporting Partners: All entities participating in Professional Development Planning	Target Date: September 15, 2010 Benchmarks: Email to current planning participants to reconvene after Labor Day.	No cost
	State: Increase the minimum level of education in order to serve as an early educator in North Carolina.	Require 18 hours in early childhood education class work or certificate as a minimum standard for employment	Lead Agency: Division of Child Development Supporting Partners:	Target Date: July 1, 2013	Moderate cost
	State: Establish a Professional Code of Conduct for early educators in North Carolina.	Develop and implement a professional code of conduct.	Lead Agency: Division of Child Development NC Institute for Professional Development Supporting Partners: Owners and Directors of child care agencies	Target Date: July 1, 2012	Moderate cost

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Planning & coordination	State: All entities involved in early childhood education will collaborate on planning activities.	<p>Create a state-wide committee composed of representatives from each planning region to assure continuity in the planning process and access to information about outcomes.</p> <p>Monitor implementation of the state plan for early childhood professional development.</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Division of Child Development NC Institute for Professional Development</p> <p>Supporting Partners: All participants in regional planning teams</p>	Target Date: September, 2012	No cost
	State: Clearly define and convey the importance of early childhood education through a comprehensive marketing plan for advocacy to reach funders, early educators and families in North Carolina. .	<p>Identify potential target groups for the marketing plan.</p> <p>Collect timely and research-based information about early childhood education. Identify channels for delivery of information.</p> <p>Evaluate the results of marketing efforts.</p> <p>Repeat the process at the regional level to tailor the marketing components to a specific region.</p>	<p>Lead Agency: Division of Child Development NC Institute for Professional Development</p> <p>Supporting Partners: Regional planning teams</p>	Target Date: July, 2012	<p>No cost</p> <p>Low cost</p> <p>Moderate cost</p> <p>High cost</p>
	Regional: Information about professional development options will	Launch a regional web site containing	Lead Agency: Child Care Resource	Target Date: July, 2011	Low cost

	be available to all early educators in the region.	information about professional standards, options for education, financial assistance, etc. tailored to the region.	and Referral agencies Supporting Partners: Smart Start Partnerships		
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