

CHILDSPAN

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HOPE

Rhode Island' Harbor of Opportunities for Professional Excellence

A blueprint for developing a coordinated system of career and professional development for early care and education (ECE), school age (SA), and youth care professionals

The goal of HOPE is to align the many pieces of the current professional development landscape into a cohesive whole. HOPE will initiate, integrate, and sustain a coordinated system of career and professional development by coordinating and advancing pre-service and in-service training and education to assure a skilled and knowledgeable workforce in Early Care and Education, school-age and youth care programs.

A qualified and professional workforce needs a coordinated system of professional development to maintain and expand skills and knowledge through learning opportunities linked to credentials, degrees, certifications, endorsement, compensation, and licensure. The system will serve participants at the beginning, middle and end of their professional development journey by recruiting and attracting new members, maintaining and advancing the existing workforce, and tapping the knowledge and expertise that many bring based on their varied experiences.

The HOPE Task Force has developed Core Competencies and Career Lattice Levels that will serve as the foundation for HOPE as an emerging career and professional development system. The Core Competencies framework was used in the design of the RI Early Learning Standards Professional Development opportunities. In turn, the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards professional development is integrated into the Core Competency and Career Lattice Framework.

CHILDSPAN has received funding to move HOPE into the next phase of planning and development by reviewing and revising the existing Core Competencies document to ensure that the document is aligned with the BrightStars rating system and is a comprehensive and useful tool to maintain and advance the early childhood, school-age and youth workforce.

As HOPE moves to into its next phase, CHILDSPAN and the RI Department of Education, Early Learning Standards Project, will work together to ensure that the professional development systems are coordinated and integrated and meet the needs of early childhood professionals.

