



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Peter McWalters
Commissioner

Preschool Child Outcomes Indicator Project

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 (IDEA), the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Populations (OSEP) requires each state to annually report its performance to the federal government. Beginning in 2007, OSEP established a new Performance Indicator relating to early childhood.

The RI Department of Education is now required to report data regarding the progress of children with disabilities in the following areas:

- Positive social and emotional skills
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills
- Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs

To meet this federal requirement, the Department of Education adopted the Creative Curriculum On-line Assessment System. This system represents a research-driven, criterion-based measure, which uses authentic assessment practices and is most aligned with RI's Early Learning Standards. It also meets federal data collection and reporting requirements.

In the 2006-2007 school year, six districts were chosen to receive training and begin the data collection process. In 2007-2008, an additional eight districts officially joined the project and districts opted to voluntarily join. In subsequent years, remaining districts will be added according to federal sampling criteria. Currently participating districts include: Westerly, Smithfield, Central Falls, Coventry, Newport, Cranston, Jamestown, North Smithfield, East Providence, West Warwick, Pawtucket, Narragansett, South Kingstown, Foster-Glocester, Scituate, Middletown,

The assessment information being collected by districts provides valuable information to teachers related to individual children's development for the purposes of curriculum design. Administrators use the assessment data from all participating classrooms to plan collectively for the needs of the program.

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