



Rhode Island 2012 Annual Performance Report Summary

Lead Agency: Rhode Island Department of Education

Participating State Agencies: Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Office of Health and Human Services

Amount of Grant: \$50,000,000

Focused Investment Areas Addressed:

(C)(1) Developing and using statewide, high-quality Early Learning and Development Standards.

(C)(2) Supporting effective uses of Comprehensive Assessment Systems.

(D)(1) Developing a Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework and progression of credentials.

(D)(2) Supporting Early Childhood Educators in improving their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

(E)(1) Understanding the status of children's learning and development at kindergarten entry.

(E)(2) Building or enhancing an early learning data system to improve instruction, practices, services, and policies.

Highlights of 2012 Accomplishments:

Rhode Island's plan is comprised of seven key project areas; Aligning and Measuring TQRIS, Using Early Learning and Development Standards, Improving Program Quality, Improving the Knowledge and Competencies of the Workforce, Implementing Effective Child Assessment, Building an Early Learning Data System, and Grant Management. Rhode Island demonstrated progress towards goals outlined within the state plan and all seven projects outlined within the Scope of Work in 2012. This included significant progress in key reform areas of the state's early childhood system including;

- Revision of the state's TQRIS, BrightStars and alignment with the state's continuum of program standards which includes; DCYF Child Care Licensing Standards for center based and family child care programs, and the Rhode Island Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program standards,
- The revision and expansion of the state's Early Learning and Development Standards for children age birth to five,
- Development of the framework for the Workforce Knowledge and Competencies for Family Child Care providers, and an addendum to the WKC for Teachers and Teaching Assistants for Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention Specialists,

- Alignment of coursework in postsecondary institutions with the state’s Workforce Knowledge and Competencies for Teachers and Teaching Assistants; and
- Building a strong high quality integrated early learning data system which will incorporate TQRIS data.

The State was also within range of meeting targeted performance measures in key areas. The targeted areas include:

- The number of Children with High Needs who are enrolled in Early Learning and Development Programs in the top tiers of the state’s TQRIS.
- The number of early childhood educators who received training from Institutions of Higher Education and professional development providers with programs that are aligned with the Workforce Knowledge and Competencies for Teachers and Teaching Assistants.

In order to meet Year One goals, Rhode Island recognized the need to become fully staffed within each of the Participating State Agencies (PSA). The Rhode Island Early Learning Challenge Grant is 95% staffed with individuals strategically placed in key departments within each agency. Rhode Island was also successful in creating six Core Teams tasked with implementing the activities outlined within the Scope of Work. In partnership with the Early Learning Council, the state created seven Subcommittees, comprised of public and private partners. Subcommittee meetings now serve as a venue for engaging the public and key early childhood stakeholders in the decision making process of future policies and regulations. Finally, Rhode Island successfully submitted its first grant amendment demonstrating the ability to make adjustments to the state plan during the initial start-up year of the grant.