

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYNOPSIS

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

DIEEC's goal is to **invest in early childhood** programs and professionals to **increase access to high quality care and education** for all of Delaware's children. DIEEC **improves the lives of young children and their families** by providing **exemplary services for the early childhood community** and conducting research that helps to **advance equity and promote high-quality education**.

This document summarizes key DIEEC accomplishments from July 2022 - June 2023.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (PLEs):

- All PLEs include a training component along with follow-up to specifically support educators with implementation.
- PLEs are designed specifically for target audiences: family child care (FCC) educators, classroom educators, and center-based program leaders.

1,105 hours of PLEs delivered

1,205 educators trained

5 PLEs translated for Spanish-speaking educators

266 PLEs delivered

17 new PLEs developed

SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INITIATIVES:

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO PROGRAM

Strategy to support educators in completing their professional portfolio and become ready to apply for the CDA credential, a nationally recognized credential for early childhood educators.

- Facilitated **6 CDA portfolio preparation cohorts** and supported **1 group of educators** through self-paced learning:
 - **1 cohort** for Spanish-speaking educators
 - **1 cohort** for family child care educators
 - **2 cohorts** for center-based educators
 - **2 fast-paced cohorts** for center-based educators
- **52 educators** completed their professional portfolios:
 - **6 educators** selected the family child care CDA credential
 - **31 educators** selected the infant-toddler CDA credential
 - **15 educators** selected the preschool CDA credential

SHINING THE LIGHT ON YOU

Well-being program designed for family child care professionals, includes weekly group sessions as well as group and individual health coaching

- Facilitated **3 cohorts** with **31 participants**

STRONGER TOGETHER

Innovative series focused on strengthening family engagement, delivered on-site, with educators and families learning together

- Delivered with **137 participants** in **8 programs**

LET'S GO OUTSIDE

Intensive PLE series to support educators to learn about nature-based outdoor learning, design and select materials for an outdoor learning environment for their programs, and bring their outdoor learning spaces to life; includes self-paced, in-person, live observation, and on-site coaching components.

- Facilitated **2 cohorts** with **33 programs**; **83 educators** involved, **1,601 children** reached

USING DATA TO IMPROVE TEACHER-CHILD INTERACTIONS

Targeted PLE series incorporating observations using the CLASS assessment tool and individual coaching sessions to improve teacher-child interactions

- Delivered **2 PLEs** with **12 participants**

SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INITIATIVES (CONTINUED):

LEADERSHIP COHORT

Program leaders engage together through a series of **4 PLEs** focused on strengthening leadership skills; includes workshops, group reflective experiences, and individual coaching

- Facilitated **1 cohort** with **9 program leaders**

MICROLEARNING SERIES

Strategy designed specifically to support new early childhood classroom educators - digestible, actionable content providing ideas to build skills, routines, and competencies, each delivered in **5-10 minutes**

- Distributed **4 issues** to **48 registered participants** and posted on the DIEEC website

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

3,497 technical assistant (TA) visits

512 programs reached

270 programs supported that actively engaged with Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) goals

132 programs engaged through Communities of Practice (CoP)

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES:

- Launched first annual [1st State Family Child Care Conference](#) with **71** family child care educators
- Implemented second annual [DIEEC Early Childhood Educator of the Year](#) initiative
- Coordinated volunteer [readers for 152 classrooms](#) in support of Children's Book Week
- Released **8 episodes** of "X, WHY, Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Education Professionals" [podcast](#)
- Supported [Week of the Young Child](#) through providing activity packets for programs, hosting a webinar panel of Delaware experts to support educators with "challenging behaviors," and donating resource bags for **200 children** in foster care
- **16 engagement sessions** held with family child care educators

MULTIPLE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES TO REACH THE DELAWARE EARLY EDUCATION COMMUNITY:

- **12 editions** of REACH monthly newsletter distributed to **3,700 individuals**
- **6 editions** of Professional Pursuits bi-monthly newsletter distributed to over **4,700 individuals**
- Over **2,900 posts** across 3 social media channels
- **38 What's Up Wednesday** weekly communication recaps sent to **499 participants**
- **21 focus groups** gathering feedback from educators on a variety of topics