QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYNOPSIS DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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



PLEs translated for Spanish-speaking educators **266** PLEs delivered



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

LET'S GO OUTSIDE

Intensive PLE series to support educators to learn about naturebased 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

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

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

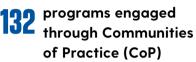
Strategy designed specifically to support new early childhood classroom educators - digestible, actionable content providing ideas to build skills, routines, and competencies, each delivered in 5-10 minutes

• 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



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 <u>Week of the Young Child</u> 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





