



September 9, 2011

Dear Early Learning Educator:

The last scheduled feedback forum for teachers on the first draft of the Core Competencies for Early Childhood Teachers in Rhode Island, scheduled on August 29<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled due to the hurricane. **This session has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2011 from 6:00-7:30.** It will focus only on teacher perspectives and will be held on the Community College of Rhode Island – Knight Campus, Room 1030 (located on the 1st floor just behind the cafeteria) 400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI. Please see below for details on what to expect.

### **Core Competency Overview**

The draft competencies are the result of extensive work of many dedicated individuals from across the field of early childhood education and care in this state. They are intended to fulfill several purposes including:

- Supporting teacher's individual professional development efforts;
- Assisting program administrators with articulating teacher job expectations and designing evaluation processes;
- Serving as a framework for Rhode Island's early education leaders for developing a state-wide professional development system;
- Guiding higher education and professional development providers in the development of curricula and training opportunities, and;
- Helping families to identify quality early education settings for their children.

Rhode Island's core competencies for teachers are organized into six domains important to the profession. Each of the six domains contains several skill levels that range from the skills and knowledge of a beginning practitioner to the more advanced skills and knowledge possessed by a more advanced professional. Although the domains are presented individually, all domains are intrinsically interrelated and interdependent. They are worded so they can be measured or demonstrated.

### **Feedback Forum Overview**

The goal of the forums is to gather feedback from stakeholders that will ensure that the core competencies are a valuable tool for early education teachers in Rhode Island. Specifically, the Core Competency Team would like to know:

- Does the document make sense to you? Do you understand it?
- In your current role, given the purposes listed above, how useful is the core competencies document right now and how could it be more useful?
- Will you be able to use it for the purposes most relevant to your role? For example, if you are a teacher, will you be able to use the document to identify your strengths as a teacher? Will you be able to identify areas where you need to grow?
- What suggestions do you have to make it a more user friendly tool/document?
- Are there edits you would recommend in how the various levels are defined?
- Is each domain addressed comprehensively? If not, what are the gaps?
- What other feedback do you have?

Attending stakeholders will participate in a structured discussion designed to elicit specific feedback and diverse views. Information and ideas gleaned through this discussion will be used to provide feedback to the Core Competency Team who worked to develop the draft set of competencies. Your feedback will be considered as they refine and finalize the document.

We ask that you read the core competencies thoroughly before attending a session and come with your questions and comments prepared. We highly recommend that you bring your comments in writing so, in the event that the session ends before you can share all of your comments, you can leave written feedback with the facilitator. If you cannot attend one of the sessions below but would like to share your feedback, you may also send your comments via the following online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CoreCompetencyRISurvey>

Please register for the session you would like to attend by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.eride.ri.gov/workshopreg/>

If you have questions about the feedback forums, please feel free to contact Michele Palermo at [Michele.palermo@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Michele.palermo@ride.ri.gov) or (401) 222-8941.

We hope you will attend.

Sincerely,

Kristin Lehoullier  
Facilitator