



# New EI/ECSE Standards – Why? When? Next Steps

AUCD Early Childhood SIG Webinar

Presenters

Dr. Eva Horn

Dr. Peggy Kemp

# The Current Status

- **No stand-alone EI/ECSE standards**
- **CEC Standards for Special Educators**
  - ❖ **DEC EI/ECSE Specialty Sets - Knowledge and Skill Statements (NOT standards) are used to inform the CEC Special Educator standards on “special or additional” knowledge and skills needed by EI/ECSE).**

# So, Why EI/ECSE Standards?

- **Changing National Landscape Impact**
  - ❖ Need for increased “quantity and quality” of EI/ECSE
  - ❖ Changing role of EI/ECSE calling for “unique & additional skills” and thus, standards
- **Collaboration with other professional associations and initiatives**
  - ❖ Early Childhood Standards being revised by NAEYC and the Power to the Profession Initiative
  - ❖ Zero to Three’s personnel competencies work
- **Ongoing difficulty in reviewing EI/ECSE educator preparation programs as part of the CAEP/CEC national recognition process**

# **DEC Taking the Lead In Collaboration with CEC and ECPC**

- March 2018 - DEC submitted a proposal to the CEC Professional Standards and Practice Committee (PSPC) to develop EI/ECSE Standards, following CEC criteria and CAEP Guidelines.**
- April 2018 - PSPC approved the request and submitted it to the CEC Board of Directors.**
- May 2018 - CEC Board of Directors approved DEC's proposal.**
- July 2018 - CEC and DEC with a letter of support from NAEYC submitted a proposal to CAEP.**
- September 2018 - CAEP approved the request.**

# Standards Development Task Force

- Eva Horn, Chair, Lawrence, KS
- Erin Barton, Nashville, TN
- Susan Connor, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Natalie Danner, Monmouth, OR
- Lorraine Dejong, Greenville, SC
- Christy Hooser, Charleston, IL
- Jennifer Kilgo, Birmingham, AL
- Hailey Love, Las Vegas, NV
- Ann Mickelson, Oshkosh, WI
- Jeanette McCollum, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Megan Purcell, West Lafayette, IN
- Sandra Hess Robbins, Carrollton, GA
- Cynthia Vail, Athens, GA
- Serena Wheeler, Louisville, KY
- Hasan Zaghlawan, Greeley, CO

## Support

- Consultant: Margie Crutchfield
- ECPC Liaison: Vicki Stayton
- DEC Executive Office: Peggy Kemp, Diane Alexander & Jamie Swindell
- CEC Staff Support: Megan Shea & Jennifer Bullock

# Standards Development Timeline

- May 2018 - Call for Task Force Applications
- June 2018 – EI/ECSE Standards Development Task Force (SDTF) appointed
- July 18, 2018 – First on-line meeting of SDTF
- September 29-30, 2018, face-to-face meeting in DC
- October and November, 2018 – Feedback sessions at DEC and TED
- November 16 – 17, 2018, second face-to-face meeting
- December 13, 2018 – on-line meeting
- January-February, 2019 – Public webinar & survey
- February 23-24, 2019 – Face-to-face meeting
- March 21, 2019 – On-line meeting

## Standards Development Timeline (cont'd.)

- April 5-6, 2019 – Face-to-face meeting
  - June 2019 – Feedback sessions at NAEYC-PLI
  - April & May, 2019 – Feedback from CEC BODs, PSPC
  - July 1, 2019 – Submission to CAEP for review
  - July 17-18, 2019 – Face-to-face meeting
  - September 2019- Public webinar & survey
  - October, November 2019 – Sessions at DEC, TED, NAEYC
  - November 2019 – Face-to-face meeting
  - CAEP application submission deadline for final standards: July 1, 2020
- \*Following CAEP approval, ECSE Initial Standards will be available for use in program review in 2021 and mandatory for program review/approval in 2023**

# Standards Should:

- **Be developed from the foundational recommendations of the CEC 2017 Framing Paper**
- **Reflect current research/trends in the field (describe and make use of the knowledge base, including current empirical research, disciplined inquiry, informed theory and the wisdom of practice, appropriate for the professionals in their field)**
- **Describe what proficient candidates should know and be able to do as they complete their program (High Leverage Practices and DEC Recommended Practices)**
- **Avoid proscribing preparation practice or curriculum**
- **Be global; should not include specific strategies or practices (CEC's standards are international)**
- **Focus on children and families and creation of environments that will foster learning and development**

# Standards Should Also Adhere to CAEP Guidelines

- Include a maximum of 7 standards
- Include a maximum of 28 components (measurable/able to assess)
- Must be possible to assess through a limited number of assessments (6-8)
- Must be written around the following four principles aligned with InTASC categories:
  - Principal A: The Learner and Learning
  - Principal B: Content
  - Principal C: Instructional Practice
  - Principal D: Professional Responsibility
- Ensure attention to CAEP's cross-cutting theme on technology and digital learning

# ECSE Draft Initial Standards

- **Task Force focused on performance-based behaviors we want to see from *beginning early interventionists and early childhood special educators*.**
- **Worked within CEC and CAEP parameters to develop a concise, yet complete, document.**
- **Drafts are just that: drafts. As feedback is received, the Task Force will make revisions.**
- **Currently draft Standards, Components, and Supporting Explanations are available for review.**
- **Additional products to be drafted are: knowledge bases, performance indicators, assessments, rubrics.**



# Draft Standard 1: Child Development and Early Learning

Candidates understand the impact of different theories and philosophies of early learning and development on assessment, curriculum, instructional, and intervention decisions. Candidates apply knowledge of typical development sequences and variations, individual differences, exceptionalities, and other direct and indirect contextual features that support or constrain children's development and learning. These factors as well as social, cultural, and linguistic diversity are considered when facilitating meaningful learning experiences and individualizing intervention and instruction within natural and inclusive environments.

1. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the impact that different theories and philosophies of early learning and development have on assessment, curriculum, instructional, and intervention decisions.
2. Candidates apply knowledge of normative sequences of early development, individual differences, and families' cultural and linguistic diversity to support each child's development and learning within natural and inclusive environments.
3. Candidates apply knowledge of biological and environmental factors that may support or constrain children's early development and learning as they plan and implement early intervention and instruction.
4. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of characteristics, etiologies, and individual differences within and across exceptionalities and developmental delays, and their potential impact on children's early development and learning.

## Draft Standard 2: Partnering with Families

Candidates use their knowledge of family systems to develop reciprocal partnerships with families. They apply family capacity-building practices as they support families to make informed decisions. They employ adult learning strategies and engage families in opportunities that build on existing strengths and foster family competence and confidence and support children's development and learning.

1. Candidates apply their knowledge of family-centered practices, family systems, and the changing needs and priorities in family life to develop trusting, respectful, culturally responsive and affirming partnerships with all families that allow for the mutual exchange of knowledge and information.
2. Candidates communicate clear, comprehensive, objective information in order to prepare families to make informed decisions about necessary resources and supports, and to advocate for access and equity in natural, inclusive environments.
3. Candidates employ adult learning strategies to engage families in identifying their strengths, priorities, and concerns; to foster opportunities to achieve the goals they have for their family and their child's development and learning; and to support their competence and confidence during assessment, individualized planning, intervention and instruction, and transition processes.

## Draft Standard 3: Collaboration and Teaming

Candidates apply models, skills, and processes of teaming when collaborating and communicating with families and professionals, using culturally-and linguistically-responsive practices. In partnership with families and other professionals, candidates plan and implement transitions that occur across the age span. Candidates use a variety of collaborative strategies while working with and supporting other adults.

1. Candidates apply teaming models, skills, and processes including appropriate uses of technology, when collaborating and communicating with families; professionals representing multiple disciplines and roles; and community partners and agencies.
2. Candidates use a variety of collaborative strategies when working with other adults that are appropriate to the task and take into considerations the environment and service delivery approach.
3. Candidates partner with family members and other professionals to facilitate individualized plans and the multiple transitions that occur across the age span (birth through age 8).

## Draft Standard 4: Assessment Processes

Candidates know and understand the purposes of assessment, in relation to ethical and legal considerations, to choose developmentally, linguistically and culturally-appropriate tools and methods responsive to the characteristics of the child, family, and program. Using evidence-based processes and approaches, candidates develop or select informal measures, select and administer formal measures in partnership with families and other professionals. They analyze, interpret, document, and share strength-based assessment information with families and other professionals for goal development, planning instruction/intervention, monitoring progress, and reporting.

1. Candidates know and understand the purposes of formal and informal assessment including ethical and legal considerations, to choose developmentally, linguistically and culturally-appropriate, valid, reliable tools, and methods responsive to the characteristics of the child, family and program.
2. Candidates develop or select and use valid, reliable tools using evidence-based processes/approaches, including technology, in partnership with families and other professionals.
3. Candidates analyze, interpret, document and share strength-based assessment information with families and other professionals.
4. Candidates in collaboration with families and other team members, use assessment data to develop child and/or family-based goals, plan for individualized instruction, and monitor progress to determine efficacy of programming.

## Draft Standard 5: Application of Curriculum Frameworks in the Planning of Meaningful Learning Experiences

Candidates collaborate with families and professionals to use developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive and affirming early childhood curriculum frameworks across developmental and content domains. Candidates create and support universally-designed, inclusive and natural learning environments that provide each child and family with equitable access to high-quality learning experiences. Candidates plan strategies, modifications, and accommodations to provide each child with learning opportunities that meet rigorous learning standards.

1. Candidates collaborate with families and other professionals to identify, adapt, and individualize early childhood frameworks to plan and facilitate meaningful, culturally-responsive and affirming learning opportunities that support the unique abilities and needs of all children and families.
2. Candidates use their knowledge of early childhood curriculum frameworks, academic content knowledge and related pedagogy to plan and implement universally-designed, developmentally appropriate, and challenging learning experiences. In so doing, they individualize programming that promote children's learning within and across developmental and content domains and ensure equitable access to appropriate and challenging learning standards for all children.

## Draft Standard 6: Using Responsive and Reciprocal Interactions, Interventions, and Instruction

Candidates plan and implement intentional, systematic, evidence-based responsive interactions, interventions, and instruction to support all children's learning and development across developmental and content domains in partnership with families and other professionals. They intentionally promote children's social-emotional competence, communication, and play. Candidates facilitate equitable access and participation for all children within natural environments and inclusive settings through culturally responsive and affirming practices and relationships. Candidates use data-based decision making to plan for and continually adapt and improve interactions, interventions, and instruction to ensure fidelity of implementation.

1. Candidates identify systematic, responsive, and intentional evidence-based practices with fidelity when interacting with children and families.
2. Candidates employ adult-learning strategies as they engage in reciprocal partnerships with families, caregivers, and other professionals to facilitate responsive adult-child interactions, interventions, and instruction in support of child learning and development.
3. Candidates plan and use flexible and embedded instructional and environmental arrangements and appropriate materials to support the use of interactions, interventions, and instruction that is adapted to meet the needs of all children and families.
4. Candidates promote children's social emotional competence and communication, and proactively plan and implement function-based interventions to prevent and address challenging behaviors.
5. Candidates identify and create multiple opportunities for children to develop play skills and engage in meaningful play experiences independently and with others across contexts.
6. Candidates use responsive interactions, interventions, and instruction with sufficient intensity and support across activities, routines, and environments to promote child and family access, participation, and engagement in natural environments and inclusive settings.
7. Candidates plan for and continually modify and improve approaches to interaction, intervention, and instruction based on multiple sources of data across a range of natural and inclusive settings.

## Draft Standard 7: Professionalism and Ethical Practices

Candidates identify and engage with the field of early intervention and early childhood special education by exhibiting professional dispositions and advocacy and leadership skills while adhering to ethical and legal guidelines. Research and evidence-based practices are promoted and used by candidates.

1. Candidates engage with the field of early intervention and early childhood special education by participating in local, regional, national, or international activities and professional organizations.
2. Candidates engage in ongoing reflective practice and access professional development to improve their own practices.
3. Candidates exhibit professional dispositions and leadership skills by using ethical and culturally/linguistically responsive practices and applying legal policies and procedures in relationships and interactions with children, families, and other professionals.
4. Candidates advocate for children, families, and the profession including the promotion and use of research and evidence-based practices and decision making.

# Your Expertise is Needed! EI/ECSE Draft Personnel Preparation Standards Webinar and Public Survey

- The second draft of Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Personnel Preparation Standards is ready for review. This is likely the last time you will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the DEC Standards Development Task Force. The survey will be launched with a webinar hosted by Dr. Eva Horn, the Chair of the Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Task Force on September 25th, 11:00 – 12:30 (EDT). [Learn more about the webinar and how to attend here.](#)

# Next Steps and More Information

**Public survey:** September 2019

**Additional in-person feedback opportunities:**

- DEC Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, October 2019
- TED Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2019
- NAEYC Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, November 2019

**For more information:**

<https://cec.sped.org/EIECSEStandards>