

Washington State's Professional Development Consortium

- The Professional Development Consortium (PDC), convened by the Early Learning Advisory Council, was created in response to the 2008 Early Learning Partnership Resolution between the Department of Early Learning (DEL), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thrive by Five Washington. Members of the PDC include representatives from early learning and school-age programs, state and local public agencies, and organizations involved in professional development.
- House Bill 1943 directs DEL and the PDC to report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 2010 with recommendations for the creation of an integrated system of preparation and continuing education for the early learning and school-age workforce.
- The PDC envisions an integrated, cross-sector system of professional development for the early learning and school-age workforce serving children birth through 12 years of age.
- The PDC adopted the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) policy blueprint *Workforce Designs: A Policy Blueprint for State Early Childhood Professional Development Systems* to guide the process of systems building and development. The blueprint lays out a comprehensive framework for an integrated, cross-sector professional development system. The six policy areas outlined in the blueprint are Professional Standards, Career Pathways, Articulation, Advisory Structure, Data, and Financing. The blueprint's guiding principles for policy making are "Does this policy increase integration among sectors?", "Does it include quality assurances?", "Does it support diversity, inclusion and access?", and "Does it increase compensation parity?"
- The PDC strives to make linkages between our work and other relevant system work including the drafting of the Early Learning Plan.
- Future PDC work includes making recommendations defining the appropriate core competencies, credentialing requirements, and strategies to improve the compensation of the workforce, as well as assisting individuals in navigating the maze of professional development opportunities currently available.
- In addition to individual programs and systems, the PDC will also examine current and future infrastructure needs, such as the statewide Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), to assess for the alignment of critical supports and incentives to ensure that participating early learning and school-age programs have the help they need to improve the quality of the services they offer and ultimately the positive outcomes for kids.
- The PDC will seek feedback and input from stakeholders, partners and the early learning and school-age community on its recommendations and proposals. We hope to begin posting some of our work products soon on DEL's website.
- For more information, contact Char Goodreau at char.rupp@del.wa.gov or (360) 725-4691 or go to <http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/development/consortium.aspx>. To view the NAEYC policy blueprint, go to www.naeyc.org/policy/ecwsi.

**NAEYC policy framework for state early childhood professional development systems,
adopted by Washington State's Professional Development Consortium**

