

Priority Area: Early Learning Standards

Goal: By September 2013, Connecticut will adopt comprehensive and multi-domain early learning standards that reflect a progression of skills birth through age 5, aligned with kindergarten-Grade 12 standards.

Strategies	Activities/Actions	Deliverables	Accomplishments
<p>Conduct review of existing standards and research on early learning.</p>	<p>Develop rubrics for review of existing standards and research.</p> <p>Review of selected current national and international standards and research.</p> <p>Review of all current Connecticut learning standards and documents.</p>	<p>Set of research and standards to guide draft document.</p> <p>Crosswalk of existing standards documents</p>	<p>Providing a solid foundation for building early learning standards, including current research, national and international practices, and building upon current Connecticut standards.</p>
<p>Involve and engage cross-sector stakeholders throughout the process.</p>	<p>Develop a process for inviting/identifying “stakeholders.”</p> <p>Announce the initiative. Use media to reach a diverse array of stakeholders across all demographics.</p> <p>Collect responses and evaluate for gaps in representation.</p> <p>Invite reps to fill gaps.</p> <p>Identify and reduce barriers to full stakeholder participation.</p> <p>Develop and monitor a process for ongoing communication with stakeholders.</p>	<p>Plan articulating cross-sector involvement in development and review of standards.</p> <p>Forum for ongoing communication with stakeholders.</p>	<p>Cross-sector support for the implementation of early learning standards, birth to age 5.</p>

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Engage leadership to ensure the promotion of the understanding and buy-in of the early learning standards and their relationship to kindergarten-Grade 12 education.	<p>Orient leadership (State Board of Education, superintendent) to the learning standards.</p> <p>SDE to develop a policy for implementation that involves LEA leadership.</p>	SDE policy for implementation linked to kindergarten-Grade 12 systems.	Respect and mutual understanding between 0-5 systems and kindergarten-Grade 12 systems.
Develop a document outlining early learning standards for children ages birth to age 5 in all areas of development, designed for appropriate use with all children, including those with disabilities and dual language learners.	<p>Develop draft document outlining standards.</p> <p>Vet document to various stakeholders.</p> <p>Revise document based on feedback.</p> <p>Link to current framework for assessment or develop a plan for a tool linked to standards.</p>	Final document articulating learning standards birth through age 5.	Set of comprehensive and multi-domain early learning standards with wide stakeholder buy-in.
Plan for implementation and professional development.	<p>Cross-agency policy changes necessary for implementation (note: leadership from involved agencies included as “stakeholders” throughout the process).</p> <p>Create timetable for implementation of standards with consideration of possible pilot implementation.</p> <p>Plan for financing and rollout of professional development on the implementation.</p>		