



Maine Association for the Education of Young Children

ECE Policy Leadership Program 2020 Overview

MaineAEYC will continue the *ECE Policy Leadership Program* in 2020 to support Maine's budding early childhood advocates! Join a cohort of 16 early childhood professionals to learn best practice and strategies in speaking about the most pressing, critical early childhood issues. We will improve our communication strategies and shape our stories of early childhood education to persuade decision-makers and spread messages statewide.

As an ECE Representative, you will have the opportunity to set up events and activities, lead program visits, speak with administrators and legislators, attend hearings, and organize other educators and community members. The program will build your leadership skills, with a focus on policies and practices that improve the lives of young children (birth through age 8), their families, and the ECE profession. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 30 hours of professional learning through a kick-off in-person training day, monthly online webinars and conference calls, and optional meetings and events throughout the year.

Mileage, and Child Care Reimbursements: We will provide reimbursements for mileage and child care needs for in-person meetings.

Meetings & Events: Don't forget to mark your calendar!

Monthly Conference Calls and Webinars

- Mondays 7-8pm: January 13th, February 10th, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, June 8th, September 14th, November 9th[†]

ECE Policy Leadership Program Workshop Day

- January 25th, MaineAEYC Office, 295 Water Street, Augusta

Possible Events (as your schedule allows)

- February 23rd-25th, NAEYC Policy Forum in DC
- April 3rd, ECE Day at the State House and meetings with state leaders
- April TB, community festivals and other events
- October Friday and Saturday TBD, Statewide ECE Conference (with policy trainings)

Roles and Responsibilities:

Please review the ECE Representative Roles & Responsibilities form. If you have any concerns that you may not be able to meet the requirements of the program, please give Tara a call or chat. We will be signing them upon acceptance into the program.

Tara Williams, ECE Policy Leadership Program Coordinator, 207-274-1478, tara@maineaeYC.org



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ECE Policy Leadership Program

Roles and Responsibilities of an ECE Representative

The role of the ECE Representative is to grow in leadership skills and advocate for programs and policies that affect early childhood education in Maine (birth through age 8). As an ECE Representative, I will work on activities set out by the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children (MaineAEYC) and my school or program, as well as additional goals that are of personal interest and local significance. I agree to represent my school or program, MaineAEYC, and all early childhood educators while in my role as an ECE Representative and I understand that integrity, kindness, respect and collaboration are essential at all times. I further agree to:

General Responsibilities

- Encourage education policy engagement in my local school or program and local community
- Collaborate with other ECE Representatives, educators, and the early learning community in Maine
- Review resources and alerts sent by MaineAEYC and distribute within my program, school, or community
- Maintain regular contact with the ECE Policy Leadership Program Coordinator
- Act as a professional when participating and/or traveling as an ECE Representative and representing the program

Participation

- Attend ECE Representative workshop and conference calls and honor the attendance expectations
- Maintain positive and respectful relationships with other ECE Representatives, MaineAEYC staff, and MaineAEYC Board members
- Establish ECE Policy Leadership goals and follow through on tasks by documenting them on Action Plan forms
- Alert the ECE Policy Leadership Program Coordinator of any barriers to attending required conference calls, workshops and/or meetings
- Alert the ECE Policy Leadership Program Coordinator to any changes or concerns to your ECE Representative position
- Inform ECE Policy Leadership Program Coordinator of any events that you are invited to as an ECE Representative

ECE Education & Advocacy

- Become knowledgeable of government, the legislative process and how it works
- Learn about the child care and development block grant and what it funds
- Reach out to and engage legislators at the state and national level at your comfort level
- Provide information and resources on voter education to educators and the local community
- Participate in, and/or help organize policy activities and training
- Develop and tell my early childhood education story

Signed and Dated: _____