

Maine Inclusion Credential



WEBINAR SERIES FOR **SYSTEM PARTNERS**

Co-sponsored by the Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network
and the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion & Disability Studies

Webinar Overview



- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentations
- Q & A
 - Please submit your questions via the chat box at any time during the presentation.
 - The moderator will read the questions after each presentation.
- Survey – please give us feedback for the next webinar.

Note: This webinar will be recorded and archived. You will receive an email following the webinar with the archive link.

Introductions



Linda Labas, M.Ed.
CCIDS Early Childhood Coordinator



Debora Schofield, M.Ed.
MRTQ-PDN Education Coordinator

Introductions (2)



Jennifer Maeverde, M.A., LCPC
CCIDS Early Childhood Mental Health
Inclusion Facilitator



Marnie Bragdon-Morneault, M.Ed.
CCIDS Disability Inclusion Facilitator

We all are working on the MRTQ-PDN project.

Webinar Outline



- Overview of Maine's Professional Development Network
- Maine Inclusion Credential, Eligibility, Competencies and Field Test
- Inclusive Child Care Curriculum

Overview of Maine's Professional Development System for Early Care and Education Practitioners



Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

Maine Roads to Quality

Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

Developmental Psychology/ Informatics Collaborative

Who Developed the Maine Inclusion Credential?



- The development of the Maine Inclusion Credential is part of the work of the Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ-PDN).
- As a collaborative partner in MRTQ-PDN, the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS) is the lead in developing and field-testing the Maine Inclusion Credential.

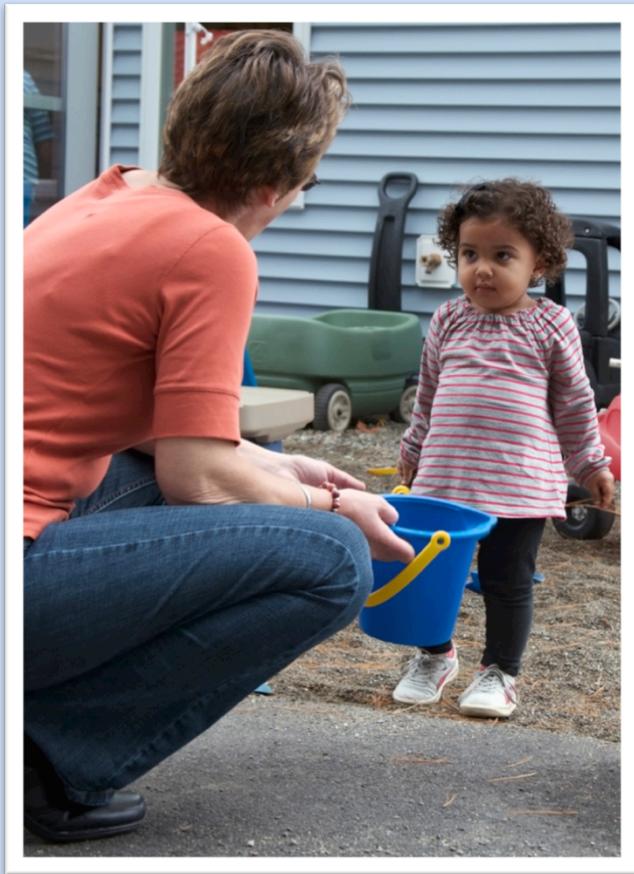
Why was the Maine Inclusion Credential Developed?



1. Practitioners from the field have been asking for additional professional development opportunities and levels of specialized training.
2. In response to the national movement toward an improved, integrated, cross-sector care and education workforce.
3. To offer a **new** credential that will provide a specialty enhancement in the area of inclusive practices to the other existing MRTQ credentials.

For Whom was the Maine Inclusion Credential Developed?

Maine Early Childhood and School-Age Care and Education Professionals



What the Maine Inclusion Credential Offers to Child Care Professionals and Families



- Professional recognition of a practitioner's competence in providing quality inclusive care and education for all children.
- Increased knowledge, skills and confidence in caring for children with disabilities or special needs.
- Access to additional resources and materials.

What the Maine Inclusion Credential Offers to Child Care Professionals and Families (2)



- Increased access for families to a choice of quality inclusive early care and school-age child care settings.
- Assurance of a professional's ability to provide quality inclusive care for all children.

Benefits of Maine Inclusion Credential and Associated Training



The Inclusion Credential and associated training offers professionals in the field:

- Current evidenced-based information and research about inclusive practice to all professionals who work with children with disabilities.
- Training hours that can be used for those working toward the Maine Inclusion Credential and/ or Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for the Maine Department of Education recertification requirements for a teacher certification or Education Technician endorsement.

As with other MRTQ credentials, the
Maine Inclusion Credential will be
awarded based on demonstration of
competency in particular areas.



Inclusion Competency Development



The Maine Inclusion Credential competencies align with the other existing MRTQ competency areas.

- The MRTQ core knowledge competency areas.
- The competency areas in the other MRTQ credentials.

Competency Development Sources



We reviewed and included information from:

- Recent research on inclusive practice.
- States with similar credentials.
- States with inclusion consultant competencies.
- National program and professional standards.

Maine Inclusion Credential Competencies



- Foundations of Quality Inclusive Practices
 - Relevant Laws – Featuring the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Philosophy and Belief

Sample Indicators:

1. Identify the applicable federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to educating and caring for children with disabilities in child care settings.
2. Describe the benefits of inclusion for children, families, practitioners, and communities.

Maine Inclusion Credential Competencies (2)



- Child Development and Learning
 - Understanding Disabilities and Other Special Needs

Sample Indicators:

1. Use knowledge of child development and learning styles to identify strengths and challenges of children with atypical variations in their development across all developmental domains.
2. Identify health and safety needs of children with medical, developmental, behavioral, and intellectual special needs.

Maine Inclusion Credential Competencies (3)



- Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction and Learning Environments
 - Universal Design and the Continuum of Adaptions and Modifications
 - Individualizing for Children with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs

Sample Indicators:

1. Identify adaptations that are responsive to the unique abilities, temperament, learning styles, and development of children as individuals.
2. Identify documents that are most commonly used for service planning and delivery (IEP/IFSP, Specialized Plan of Care, etc.) and how this information may be used to inform curriculum planning.

Maine Inclusion Credential Competencies (4)



- Building Relationships with Children and Families

- Building Inclusive Communities
- Family-Centered Practices

Sample Indicators:

1. Utilize strategies that support all children's engagement, self-determination and independence in the classroom community.
2. Facilitate the inclusion of all children in social relationships, play and learning experiences of the classroom.
3. Collaborate with parents/families as equal partners in understanding and problem solving situations of challenging behavior.

Maine Inclusion Credential Competencies (5)



- **Professionalism**

- Personal and Professional Awareness and Self-Care
- Professional and Ethical Practices

Sample Indicators:

1. Recognize indicators of stress and burnout in caring for all children, including children with special health care needs.
2. Adhere to the standards of ethical conduct in working with children, families and professionals, paying particular attention to issues of confidentiality.

Steps to Maine Inclusion Credential Completion



- Meet the education, experience and training eligibility requirements.
- Complete 45 additional hours of state approved training/professional development.
- Complete a portfolio.

Steps to Maine Inclusion Credential Completion (2)



- Submit Family Engagement Activities as part of the portfolio.
- Participate in an on-site observation.
- Participate in a peer review presentation and interview.
- Submit completed application and payment.

Eligibility Requirements



Educational Requirements

- At a minimum, a high school diploma/GED, or if a high school student, be working towards a diploma or GED.
- Completion of the 180 hours of MRTQ Core Knowledge Certificate, or hold one of the following:
 - Current CDA certification.
 - Current Maine Infant & Toddler Credential Level 1.
 - Current Youth Development Credential I.
- Or a college degree in Early Childhood Education or a related degree.

Eligibility Requirements (2)



Training Requirements

- Successful completion of the MRTQ Inclusive Child Care Curriculum or Creating Inclusive Youth Development Settings Curriculum within the past 5 years.
- Successful completion or be currently enrolled in the MRTQ 9 hour Your Professional Development Portfolio Training.

Eligibility Requirements (3)



Work/Volunteer Experience

- Completed at least 480 hours experience working/volunteering with children/youth in the past 5 years

Additional Eligibility Information

- Current member of the Maine Roads to Quality Professional Registry
- Alternative pathways for meeting the eligibility requirements will be considered on an individual basis by MRTQ-PDN.

MRTQ-PDN Supports for Credential Applicants



Practitioners will not have to do this alone!

Maine Roads to Quality will do the following:

- Host and facilitate cohorts to support you in completing the Inclusion Credential application process.
 - These cohorts will typically combine monthly conference call meetings and group technical assistance to answer your questions and share resources.

MRTQ-PDN Supports for Credential Applicants (2)



- Provide individualized phone, email or on-site technical assistance.
- Offer scholarship support to cover the cost of pursuing the credential for income eligible participants.

Next Steps: Field Test



- Recruit for and offer the NEW and REVISED 30-hour Inclusive Child Care Curriculum.
- Offer 4 NEW trainings (for a total of 45 hours) in the areas of:
 - Foundations of Inclusion: Relevant Laws – Featuring ADA (6 hrs.)
 - Foundations Universal Design and Individualizing (12 hrs.)
 - Collaborating with Families and Professionals (12 hrs.)
 - Positive Supports and Challenging Behavior (15 hrs.)

Next Steps: Field Test (2)



- Recruit participants for the Maine Inclusion Credential Cohorts and support them through the credential process.
- Gather input from cohort participants to inform the final versions of the curricula and credential.

What You Should Know About the Inclusive Child Care Curriculum



- This 30-hour curriculum has recently been rewritten and updated in 2014.
- It focuses on infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- The revisions help to prepare applicants to meet the Maine Inclusion Credential competencies.
- Completing this training is an eligibility requirement for the Maine Inclusion Credential.

The Inclusive Child Care Curriculum is Being Offered Soon!



- **It starts on January 24, 2015!**
- It will be presented as a hybrid model:
 - **3 Saturday face-to-face meetings in the Lewiston/Auburn Area (January 24th, February 28th, April 11th) and**
 - 4 online sessions.
- Instructors for the curriculum include the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS) and Maine Roads To Quality (MRTQ) staff.
- The fee is \$30.00.

Continued work...



**WE WILL CONTINUE TO
WORK ON ALIGNING AND/
OR INCLUDING THIS
CREDENTIAL IN OTHER
SYSTEMS INITIATIVES.**

Participation on Committees



Through this collaboration, MRTQ and CCIDS staff will continue as members on:

- The Maine Children's Growth Council (MCGC).
- The Child Care Advisory Council.
- The MCGC Professional Accountability Team.
- The Maine Department of Education Early Learning and Development Standards Work Group.

Contributors in Early Childhood Initiatives



MRTQ and CCIDS staff are working along side of others to contribute to the revision of standards including:

- The Quality for ME Revision Project.
- The Child Development Services (CDS) Program Approval Revision Project.
- The Maine Department of Education Public Pre-Kindergarten Standards Work Group.

Connections with other Critical Partners



- The Maine After School Network is part of Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ-PDN).
- The Maine Head Start State Collaboration Office is located at the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS).

Q & A



Please type your questions in the chat box on the webinar dashboard.

The moderator will read the question.

For More Information...



**For more information about registering for the
Inclusive Child Care Curriculum contact:**

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For More Information (2)



For more information about applying to be part of a Maine Inclusion Credential Cohort contact:

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To register online....



- For more information about Inclusive Childcare Curriculum visit the MRTQ Training Calendar at <http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu/public/details.aspx?id=2156>
- For more information about the Maine Inclusion Credential visit the MRTQ-PDN webpage at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/inclusioncredential.htm>



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**Center for Community Inclusion
and Disability Studies**

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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Things To Remember...



- You will receive an email within a few days with:
 - A link to the archived webinar
 - A link to a survey to provide us with your valuable feedback about this webinar (*Once the survey is completed you will receive a certificate of attendance from MRTQ*).
 - A transcription of the questions and answers we provided during the webinar, as well as to any questions we did not have the opportunity to answer.

THANK YOU!