



Leading Early Learning Fellowship—Pre-K-3

A Professional Learning Series for Elementary Administrators

2024-25

Offered through a partnership between the Maine Department of Education, Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network, Maine Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

Purpose

The *Leading Early Learning Fellowship* is a professional learning series designed to build understanding of the components of evidence-based, high-quality early childhood (Pre-K-3) learning environments and approaches that promote diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices. The series promotes knowledge of best practices in early childhood education and leadership abilities to support children, teachers, and families during this pivotal time in children's development.

Audience

This series is geared toward elementary principals who work in the Pre-K-Grade 3 span. Principals can participate on their own but are encouraged to participate with a colleague in their school system who also supports grades Pre-K- 3 so that a more systemic application of series content can be achieved. Colleagues could include another elementary principal, a curriculum leader, a special education director, an assistant superintendent, or teacher leader.

Intended Outcomes

Participants will:

- increase their knowledge of early childhood development and pedagogy.
- strengthen their early childhood leadership abilities within their school districts and communities.
- identify resources and key components of high-quality early childhood programming.
- engage with a network of colleagues to grow their understanding of early childhood.

Series Design and Schedule

The Leading Early Learning Fellowship will kick off on September 25, 2024 (location to be determine). This session will begin at 12:00 p.m. and run until 3:30 p.m. The conference will be followed by 5 asynchronous modules. Each module is 4 weeks long. Each week includes short readings, video clips, and a short assignment (observation, reflection, post to classmates). The time commitment each week is approximately 90 minutes. At the end of each module, participants engage in a 90-minute online professional learning community experience. There will also be an option of attending the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children's 1-day ECE Conference on October 26. The Leading Early

Learning Fellowship culminates with the final PLC which will be a half-day gathering on March 26, 2024 during which participants will explore application of series learning to ongoing practice and share concepts for self-designed application projects they plan to implement following the series. The fellowship schedule is summarized below. Participants will earn 40 contact hours for completion of all series components.

Series Component	Date/Date Span
Series Kick-off Session	September 25, 2024, 12:00-3:30 p.m., in person
Module 1	September 26-October 22, 2024
Module 1 PLC	October 23, 2024
Statewide Early Childhood Conference	October 26, 2024 in Bangor, Day Long, in person, optional
Module 2	October 24-November 27, 2024
Module 2 PLC	November 27, 2024, Virtual, 5:00-6:30
Module 3	November 28, 2024-January 7, 2025
Module 3 PLC	January 8, Virtual, 5:00-6:30
Module 4	January 9, 2025-February 11, 2025
Module 4 PLC	February 12, 2025, Virtual, 5:00-6:30
Module 5	February 13, 2025-March 25, 2025
Final PLC Gathering	March 26, 2025, in person, 12:00-3:30 p.m.

Cost

The cost of the fellowship is \$200 per participant. This includes all series content (kick off meeting, modules, facilitated PLCs, optional conference attendance, and final gathering) and materials. Participants will be responsible for travel to the kickoff, conference and the final gathering. A process for payment will be provided after applications are accepted.

Fellowship Applications

The application for the Leading Early Learning fellowship can be found at this [link](#). **Applications for the series are due by July 14, 2024.** Applications will be reviewed for completeness and prioritized on a first come, first served basis with consideration of regional representation across the state. Notification of acceptance will be made by July 22, 2024.

Additional Information

Please contact Lee Anne Larsen, Director of Early Learning, leeann.larsen@maine.gov, with any questions or for additional information.