Comparison of State Standards with National Standards

To determine the extent to which states’ ECSE certification standards align with national ECSE standards, an item by item comparison was conducted of states’ certification standards and/or competencies to those of national standards. The national standards used in the comparison were: 1) the CEC early childhood special education knowledge and skills as well as the CEC common core knowledge and skills for all special educators (CEC, 2003), and, 2) the NAEYC early childhood personnel standards, if relevant (Hyson, 2003). NAEYC standards were used for the states with ECE and ECSE blended certification and states that added ECSE endorsement on ECE certification. A purposeful sampling of states was used to ensure that the sample reflected the 5 major certification models found to be used by states for certifying personnel to work with young children with delays and disabilities: 1) ECSE, 2) Special Education, 3) Blended ECE and ECSE, 4) ECSE endorsement on ECE or regular education certification, 5) ECSE endorsement on special education certification. The sampling included one state’s two certification models.

Percent of CEC ECSE and Common Core Standards Met by States’ Policies

• Three (17%) of the states’ policies meet or nearly meet 100% of the CEC combined standards for ECSE and common core. These state certification policies either align directly with the CEC combined standards or they stipulate in writing they adopt the CEC combined standards.

• Two (11%) of the states’ policies meet 56% and 81% of the CEC combined standards.

• Thirteen (70%) of the states’ policies meet 52% or less of the CEC standards.
Percent of CEC Common Core vs. CEC Early Childhood Special Education Standards Met By States’ Policies

- States’ ECSE certification policies meet a higher percent of the CEC early childhood special education (ECSE) standards than the CEC common core (CC) standards.

- Eight of the state’s policies meet or exceed 50% of the CEC ECSE standards, while 5 state policies meet or exceed 50% of the CEC common core standards.

Percent of NAEYC ECE Standards Met by Each State’s Policies

- Of the states with ECE and ECSE blended certification or that added ECSE endorsement on ECE certification, four (66%) state policies met 53% or more of the NAEYC standards.

References


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