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Early Childhood Personnel Center

ECPC MISSION:

The purpose of the Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) is to provide leadership at the national, regional and state level for State Education Agencies (SEA), Part C agencies, early care and education agencies, Institutes of Higher Education (IHE), and other professional development entities responsible for the preparation, credentialing and continuing education of those providing services to infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and their families.

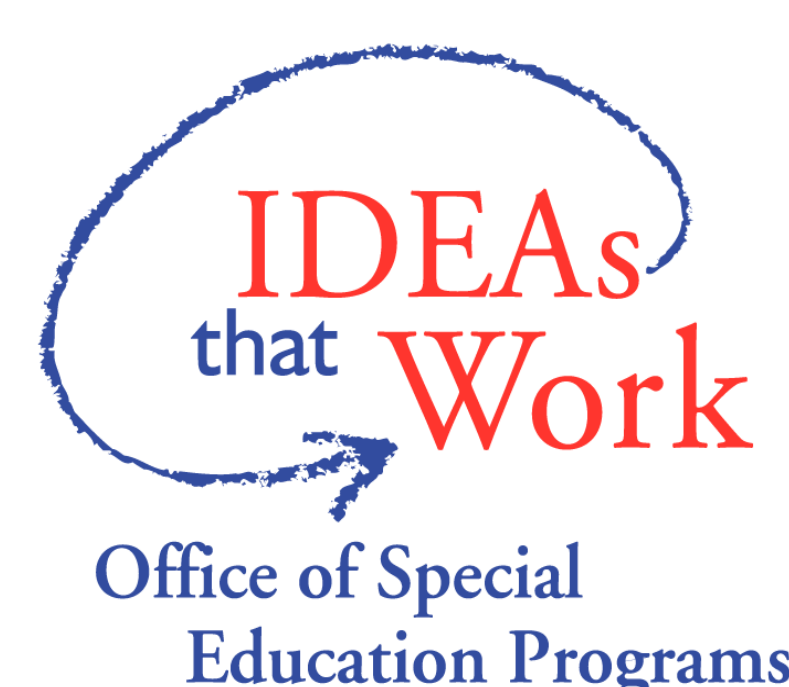
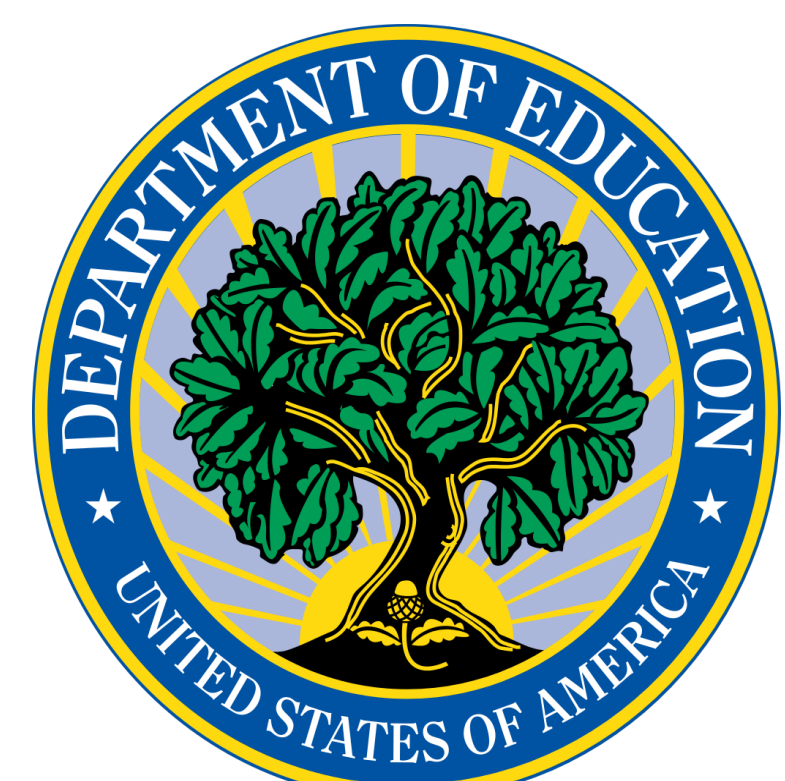
ECPC LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION:

The ECPC has a number of objectives to ensure coordination occurs between project activities and other organizations who provide technical assistance (TA) and support to those working in early childhood intervention. These collaborative efforts include other federal and state level TA centers, and discipline specific organizations addressing the needs of young children and their families.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PURPOSE:

The 3 day ECPC Leadership Institute focuses on developing strategies to enable IDEA early childhood leaders to integrate their planning and activities with state early childhood programs and partners. During the institute, leadership teams from each participating state develop a work plan to address leadership, collaboration, and sustainability activities across their state early childhood initiatives.

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STRATEGIES TO INCREASE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:

- ❖ Provide background information about an activity/event to prepare families to participate and contribute
- ❖ Develop guidelines for families to use each time they attend an activity/event to guide their participation
- ❖ Use experienced parents to assist other families before and during an activity/event
- ❖ Provide a list of commonly used terms, acronyms and abbreviations to families to help their understanding
- ❖ Ask for family feedback



STATE EXAMPLES OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND PERSPECTIVES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT:

ARIZONA

- ❖ AZ Dept. of Economic Security Developed a Brochure: "Families: Did you know that ALL children benefit from inclusion of children with disabilities?"
- ❖ Family feedback included through involvement in Interagency Coordinating Council

NEVADA

- ❖ Parent from Nevada PEP - Strengthening Families with Education, Empowerment and Encouragement sits on the State Leadership Team.
- ❖ Parent Representative sits on the Recruitment & Retention Sub-Committee for the Early Childhood System of Learning (ECSOL)

VIRGINIA

- ❖ Parent from The Arc on the VA Cross-section Professional Development Advisory Group
- ❖ Reaching out to specific groups (Center for Family Involvement; State Special Education Advisory Council, Infant Toddler Connection of VA; and VCPD members connected to families.