

Illinois Gateways to Opportunity® Credentials & Competency Timeline

- 1999 – 2001** **Illinois Director Credential** for early childhood and school-age program administrators launches
- 2001** **Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)** established by the Governor
- 2007 – 2008** **Gateways ECE and Infant Toddler Credentials** launch, developed/piloted with faculty partnerships
- 2009** **Gateways Credentials placed in Administrative Rule** by Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- 2010 – 2012** **50% Illinois Higher Education Institutions** align early childhood programs with Gateways Credentials
- 2013 – 2016** **Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC)** federal grant received; funding supports development of Gateways Family Child Care, Family Specialist, and Technical Assistance Credentials
- 2014** **Gateways ECE Credential Faculty Retreat** identifies strengths and opportunities for growth in Illinois ECE teacher preparation and Gateways Credential implementation
- Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation (EPPI)** grants funded by RTT-ELC
- Round 1: Develop models of effective early childhood educator preparation, further partnerships between two- and four-year programs, promote articulation and curriculum alignment, support ECE preparation program incorporation of Gateways Credentials, build capacity in areas of need
- 2014 – 2015** **Technical Assistance** funded by RTT-ELC provided to improve Gateways ECE Credential “stackability”
- 2015** **73% Illinois Higher Education Institutions** align early childhood programs with Gateways Credentials
- EPPI Grants** Round 2 funded by RTT-ELC: cumulative 66% of IL Institutions of Higher Education participate
- **EPPI grant funding utilized by faculty** to repackage Gateways ECE Credential to reflect competencies
 - Stage one: Categorization and refinement – 347 Gateways Credential ECE benchmarks sorted and coded
 - Stage two: Compilation – Assigned benchmarks to each professional level
 - Stage three: Competency Categorization – Drafted 56 measurable competencies
 - Stage four: Master Rubrics created by a group of faculty consultants
 - **Gateways to Opportunity 2015 Higher Education Forum** features EPPI grant faculty presentations
- Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation***ⁱ
- Highlights competency-based qualifications for early care and education professionals
- The Early Childhood Educator Preparation Innovation Grant: Lessons from Initial Implementation***ⁱⁱ
- PDAC Annual Meeting** – Albert Wat, Senior Policy Director, Alliance for Early Success – ties competency work in Illinois to Transforming the Workforce report
- 2016** **Gateways ECE Credential Competencies - reviewed/vetted by state councils, committees, agencies**
- **Gateways 2016 Higher Education Forum** features ECE Competency presentations/workshops
 - **Faculty pilot** new competency-based Gateways Credential Entitled application
 - **Five Faculty Regional Meetings** convened moving Gateways Credentials to competency basis
 - **Technical Assistance (TA) provided** to faculty to fully embed Gateways Credential Competencies
- Voices from the Field: Collaborative Innovations in Early Childhood Educator Preparation***ⁱⁱⁱ
- Monograph presenting perspectives from 50 Illinois two- and four-year faculty
- Innovations for High Quality, Aligned Early Childhood Educator Preparation***^{iv}
- 2016 – 2017** **100% Gateways Credentials** move to competency basis vetted and supported by state agencies, councils
- **Sixth Faculty Regional Meeting:** TA provided to faculty on Gateways Credential competencies

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2017 **Gateways to Opportunity Early Childhood Educator Career Lattice** redesigned to utilize competencies

- Gateways Credential competencies copyrighted (ECE, IDC, ITC, FCC, FSC, SAYD, TA)

Gateways 2017 Higher Education Forum features national competency expert Charla Long (C-BEN)

- Competency resource videos published on INCCRRA/Gateways to Opportunity YouTube channel

Illinois Trainers Summit: Origins, Applications, & Opportunities of Gateways Credential competencies

IDHS, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Board of Higher Education support Gateways Credential integration within EC teacher preparation programs

- Three Faculty Webinars hosted by ICCB on competencies, career pathways, and best practices
- 95% of two-year higher education institutions complete Gateways ECE Credential Competency-based Entitled Applications; four-year institution ECE Competency-based Entitled applications due May 2018

Advancing the Illinois Early Childhood Education Workforce: A Model College and Career Pathway^v

2018 **McCormick Foundation awards one-year planning grant to INCCRRA in partnership with the Illinois Board of Higher Education:**

- Engage national experts and Illinois stakeholders in developing three-to-five year Strategic and Operational plans that expand use of Gateways Credential Competencies, systemic assessments and rubrics, and foster innovative competency-based learning practices

2019 **94% of all Illinois Higher Education Institutions** with early childhood education or child development programs are aligned with competency-based Gateways to Opportunity Credential(s)

McCormick Foundation grant awarded to INCCRRA, supported by state agencies and faculty leadership

- Cross-institutional work through Faculty Fellows will build capacity to expand utilization of shared, criterion-referenced assessments for Gateways Credential Competencies and identify potential data points

Visit www.ilgateways.com for more information

ⁱInstitute of Medicine and National Research Council. 2015. *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/19401>.

ⁱⁱLichtenberger, E. J., Klostermann, B. K., Duffy, D. Q., & Southern Illinois University, I. C. (2015). The Early Childhood Educator Preparation Innovation Grant: Lessons from Initial Implementation. IERC, 2015-2.

ⁱⁱⁱBernoteit, S. A., Darragh Ernst, J. C., Latham, N. I., Southern Illinois University, I. C., & Illinois Board of Higher Education. (2016). Voices from the Field: Collaborative Innovations in Early Childhood Educator Preparation.

^{iv}White, B. R., Baron, D. M., Klostermann, B. K., Duffy, D. Q., & Southern Illinois University, I. C. (2016). Innovations for High Quality, Aligned Early Childhood Educator Preparation. IERC, 2016-3.

^vBernoteit, S. A., Holt, J. K., Kirchoff, A., & Southern Illinois University, I. C. (2017). Advancing the Illinois Early Childhood Education Workforce: A Model College and Career Pathway. IERC, 2017-3.

