

**Leading Early Learning—Pre-K-3**

A Professional Learning Series for Elementary Administrators

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

**Purpose**

*Leading Early Learning* 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 will promote 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. The inaugural year of this series will be approached as a pilot (see more details below).

**Audience**

This series is geared toward elementary principals who work in the PK-3 span. Principals can participate on their own but are encouraged to participate with a colleague in their school system who also supports grades PK-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 40-hour series will kick off on October 21, 2021 in Bangor, the day before the [Statewide Early Childhood Education Conference](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maine-early-childhood-education-conference-tickets-140011555331). This session will begin at 3:30 p.m. and run until 6:00 p.m. Participants will then attend day 1 of the conference on October 22, 2021. The conference will be followed by 5 asynchronous modules (each about 3 hours in length) coupled with monthly 90-minute online, facilitated professional learning community experiences. The series will culminate with the final PLC which will be a half-day gathering on April 6, 2022 during which participants will explore application of series learning to ongoing practice and share a self-designed application project they will have developed during the series. Finally, participants will have the opportunity for follow up coaching/consultation to support application of series learning in May and June 2022. The series schedule is summarized below:

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| **Series Component** | **Date/Date Span** |
| Series Kick-off Session | October 21, 2021 in Bangor, Late afternoon/early evening, in person |
| Statewide Early Childhood Conference | October 22, 2021 in Bangor, Day Long, in person |
| Module 1 | October 25-November 17, 2021 |
| Module 1 PLC | November 17, 2021, Virtual |
| Module 2 | November 18, 2021-January 5, 2022 |
| Module 2 PLC | January 5, 2022, Virtual |
| Module 3 | January 6-February 2, 2022 |
| Module 3 PLC | February 2, 2022, Virtual |
| Module 4 | February 3-March 2, 2022 |
| Module 4 PLC | March 2, 2022, Virtual |
| Module 5 | March 3-April 6, 2022 |
| Final Gathering (Module 5 & Project Shares) | April 6, 2022, Half-day, in person |
| Individual Coaching Consultation | May-June 2022 |

**Cost**

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

**Year 1 Pilot**

The inaugural year of this series will be approached as a pilot to enable the partnering organizations opportunity to gather feedback on the series content and design as well as to determine the impact of the series. This evaluation will ultimately inform modifications and improvements to the series for future years. Participants selected for year 1 will be asked to participate in a few evaluation components throughout the series.

**Series Applications**

The application for the Leading Early Learning series can be found at this [link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g_QX0gYkubzeoajy-GTk_5rouEeelBmyKOmBKUvC1UNkRXSjdJNjRLQjYwQkQwTkFVMUtTSElWNy4u). **Applications for the series are due by June 30, 2021**. 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 23, 2021.

**Additional Information**

Please contact leeann.larsen@maine.gov with any questions or for additional information.