

*Best Practice in Early
Childhood Teacher Education
and State Certification
Requirements:*

Are They Always in Sync?

Billi L. Bromer, Ed.D. Coordinator of Teacher Education
Brenau University - Augusta
Georgia



What NAEYC recommends that teachers who will teach children under eight should know and be able to do:

- Promoting child development and learning
- Building family and community relations
- Observing, documenting, and assessing
- Using developmentally effective approaches to connect with children and families
- Using content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum
- Becoming a professional

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/2009%20Where%20We%20Stand%20Standards%20rev%204_12.pdf



IMPROVING THE EARLY CARE & EDUCATION WORKFORCE

Power to the Profession and other initiatives call for improving credentials of this workforce.

GREAT NEWS for children through pre-school!



WHAT ABOUT GRADUATES OF ECE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS?

“Too often the wider the grade span a teacher license covers, the less training for teaching the lower grades. Preparation programs tend to focus on topics more appropriate for teaching older children, with the result that many educators have poor training and coursework in early learning pedagogy and practices”

“When states revise ECE licensure policies, they need feedback from higher education”



Sarah Vecchiotti, *Transforming the Early Care and Education Workforce*, National Association of State Boards of Education



HOW DO STATES DIFFER IN CERTIFICATION
OF TEACHERS WHO TEACH CHILDREN UNDER
EIGHT?

The answer is..... **a lot**



EVOLVING ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- States don't all have ECE certification that extends through age eight.
- Are teachers enrolled in elementary education preparation programs being educated with NAEYC best practices in mind?
- Has the NCATE to CAEP process impacted ECE programs?
 - CAEP now has Elementary Education standards
- Has edTPA impacted ECE programs?

Alabama. Arkansas. California. Connecticut. Delaware. Georgia. Hawaii. Illinois. Iowa. Minnesota. New Jersey. New York. North Carolina. Oregon. Tennessee. Washington. West Virginia, and Wisconsin.



MY STATE'S EXPERIENCE

Georgia's state universities are not all seeking CAEP accreditation and the opportunity for ECE SPA accreditation as well.

Georgia is an edTPA state in Elementary Education (literacy and math).

Georgia is eliminating ECE certification and adopting Elementary Education (PK-5th grade)

Will our teachers in PK-3rd grade keep DAP in mind?



TWO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

“Licensure reflects a set of assumptions teacher educators make about knowledge clusters that teachers need to work in certain grades. There should be a process that engages **higher education** in the discussion - amongst other partners, but certainly **state boards of education** - of how expertise and research are driving licensure changes”

Aisha Ray, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs &
Dean of Faculty, Erikson Institute



TEACHER EDUCATORS

Be sure

- preparation meets ECE standards if certification includes teaching students eight and under
- pre-service clinical experiences provide ECE opportunities
- support efforts to improve standards for anyone teaching children eight and under

