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**EARLY CHILDHOOD
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

SOUTHEAST Comprehensive Center
at American Institutes for Research

May 2018

SECC Early Childhood Community of Practice E-Newsletter

Greetings! Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Community of Practice (CoP). We encourage you to continue visiting the [CoP website](#). Here are some of the latest updates!

State Highlights

Thank you, dedicated leaders who participated in our cross-state collaboration meeting, “Fostering Interagency Collaboration in Early Childhood Community of Practice” on May 14. The ideas and experiences you discussed are valuable in guiding the decisions and direction of your agencies. We hope that the interstate relationships will continue to flourish and that you will call on each other for further collaboration. We look forward to providing opportunities for ongoing conversations. An archive of the webinar recording and presentation can be found [here](#).

Alabama is named as one of six states to watch in the annual report *The State of Preschool 2017*, just released by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). One goal of this report is to assist policymakers and the public in learning from all the states’ successes and challenges. Alabama is credited with its focused intent to provide universal preK for children who are 4 years old. Alabama also is named as one of three states that met all 10 new benchmarks for minimum preschool quality standards (p. 23). Congratulations, Alabama, for demonstrating what can be accomplished when leadership maintains high-quality preschool as a top priority. To read more, access the [The State of Preschool 2017](#) report.

Resource Spotlight

The *CEELO fastFACTS* are rapid response documents developed by the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) to answer state leaders’ queries about early childhood education (ECE). The April 2018 *CEELO fastFACT* issue, “Strategies to Improve Instructional Practice in Early Childhood Settings,” responds to a state’s request for a review of research on best practices that improve outcomes on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS). The inquiring state is implementing a legislative mandate to unify its ECE programs (all public preK, child care, and Head Start). Building on previous advances in its ECE system, the state will include research-based professional development models to improve instructional practices. In the response document, the authors cite examples of promising approaches to professional development and coaching (naming Alabama as a state model for reflective coaching), provide next steps with links to resources, and suggest additional considerations for policymakers. For more information, access the [CEELO fastFACT](#).

Professional Development

Don’t miss the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 2018 Professional Learning Institute in Austin, Texas, June 10–13. This year’s institute hosts more than 200 sessions and networking opportunities for leaders in the field to connect with other leaders, advocates, and favorite authors. Register early for savings at the [event site](#).

Research Spotlight

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) released *The State of Preschool 2017* annual report, based on 2016–2017 academic year data. NIEER’s *State of Preschool* yearbook is the only national report on state-funded preschool programs. This year’s report includes a special section on policies affecting dual language learners (DLLs). It also summarizes changes in preschool programs since 2002, when NIEER began tracking state preK. To learn more, access the [NIEER preschool annual report](#).

For other early childhood news and information, please visit the CoP website. We appreciate your continued collaboration.

The ECCoP Team

Contact Us

440 Knox Abbott Drive, Suite 200, Cayce, SC 29033 | 803-936-0750 | southeast-cc.org

Beth Howard-Brown, Director, bhoward-brown@air.org

Tammie Causey-Konaté, Deputy Director, tcausey@air.org

Kathleen Theodore, Early Childhood Project Lead, ktheodore@air.org

