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EARLY CHILDHOOD
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

SOUTHEAST Comprehensive Center
at American Institutes for Research

June 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

In the state of Georgia, children (those who are 18 years old and younger) have access to free meals this summer, thanks to Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In DECAL's press release, Nutrition Services Director of Provider Services Sonja Adams said, "During the summer months, children who receive free and reduced-priced meals when school is in session may have limited access to quality meals. The [Summer Food Service Program](#) is a vehicle that gives children access to healthy meals when school is not in session, so that they may continue to learn and play." The states of Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina also offer free summer-meal programs for children who are age 18 and younger.

Resource Spotlight

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) recently updated the Knowledge and Practice Standards (KPS) for Teachers of Reading, which define the knowledge and skills that all literacy teachers should possess to teach all students to read proficiently. This revision emphasizes how knowledge of the standards can be assessed in the context of coursework and how Structured Literacy can be demonstrated in supervised pre-service practicums. This summer, IDA will begin aligning educator preparation resources—such as publications, webinars, and briefs—with KPS in pre-service and in-service educator preparation contexts. See how your state's standards compare to the [Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading](#).

Research Spotlight

Bellwether Education Partners' December 2017 report, [Primetime for Coaching: Improving Instructional Coaching in Early Childhood Education](#), helps policymakers and practitioners make informed decisions about early childhood coaching programs and policies. Focused on coaching models aimed at improving instructional practice and child learning outcomes, this report describes research on programs at local, state, and federal levels. It includes early childhood coaching policies and practices as well as lessons learned from the field. Head Start Performance Standards required all 2,920 Head Start and Early Head Start programs to implement a research-based, coordinated coaching strategy by 2017. Twenty-five states now require early childhood coaching, and this report provides recommendations for early learning program leaders, policymakers, funders, and researchers on how to more effectively implement coaching programs. One of the Southeast Comprehensive Center's partner states is highlighted in this report: Alabama is one of only four states that meet NIEER's Coaching and Professional Development Benchmark (see page 18).

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

The ECCoP Team

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