

## **Memo**

To: Policy and Research Committee  
Fr: Chau Ly, Program Manager  
Re: Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant Update  
Date: February 3, 2014

---

The following is a summary of the key activities that have happened in January.

### ***Program Quality***

- See QRIS monthly updates

### ***Educator Quality***

#### **Post masters certificate program**

- In December 2013, the first cohort of post master's certificate students graduated.
- Cohort 2 students are currently taking classes at the University of Massachusetts Boston.
- Recruitment of Cohort 3 is underway.

### ***Screening and Assessment***

#### **Massachusetts Kindergarten Assessment (MKEA)**

- In January there were 3 regional MKEA networking meetings sponsored by the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. Public school kindergarten teachers and administrators had the opportunity to network with one another, get an update on MKEA and discuss challenges and opportunities. We announced the decision to go with Teaching Strategies Gold for Cohort 3 and it was well received.
- On January 15, EEC hosted a kickoff meeting with Collaborative for Educational Services (CES), who is the vendor that will provide training on the assessment tools, the Educator and Provider Support (EPS) grantees, the Readiness Centers and Teaching Strategies Gold. There was good discussion about improving the implementation of MKEA Cohort 3 and sustainability.
- EEC launched an MKEA website for school districts to access updated information about the initiative.

### ***Family and Community Engagement***

#### **Evidence Based Family Literacy**

- EEC has developed an online monthly reporting tool for the 24 Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grantees (CFCE). Grantees will be able to see all the reports they have submitted to date and input new reports. Family and Community Specialists will be able to monitor CFCE implementation of the Evidence-based literacy grant, review all reports, and check report status for each grantee.

#### **Museums and Libraries Project**

- The Boston Children's Museum is partnering with United Way to plan Brain Building in Progress activities for the week of the Young Child April 6-12.

- The Boston Children's Museum has scheduled 5 regional trainings in March for CFCE grantees on how to use the STEM kits in their local communities.

### **Partnership with WGBH**

- On January 14, WGBH hosted a meeting with United Way, the Boston Children's Museum and EEC to discuss the launch of the text messaging campaign. The campaign, which will run from April 2014-December 2015, is focused on promoting the *Resources for Early Learning* website and local events and relevant information for families with children 0-5 years old. The text messages will be in both English and Spanish.

### ***Infrastructure***

#### **Interagency Partnerships**

- On January 13, EEC hosted an Interagency Partnerships meeting with the Dept. of Children and Families, Dept. of Mental Health, Office of Refugees and Immigrants, Dept. of Public Health and Dept. of Housing and Community Development. Agencies shared information about their RTT projects and begun discussions about sustainability.

#### **Other**

- EEC has identified candidate for the RTT Project Director position. EEC posted a job for the Early Education Program Coordinator position (who will oversee MKEA and the Birth to Third Grade work). Interviews will be conducted in February for this position.