**MICRO-CREDENTIAL SERIES PILOT**

# Leadership for Early Childhood Education

As preschool becomes more embedded and established in the educational continuum provided to all Americans, many principals and school leaders find themselves in the role of supervising early childhood programs that are outside of their formal preparation and professional experiences. LEAD Ed and BloomBoard, Inc. have partnered to design, publish and pilot a series of micro-credentials to support these leaders.

The *Leadership for Early Childhood Education* micro-credentials series engages participants in authentic, job-embedded learning experiences designed to build competencies for principals of schools that provide Early Childhood education. These micro-credentials are organized around four foundational competencies for leaders who supervise these programs:

**Identifying Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) in Early Childhood Classrooms**
*Participants will*
- *identify developmentally appropriate practices in an exemplary classroom*
- *identify themes from observations of teaching and learning in their preK classrooms*
- *reflect on insights gained*

**Using the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) to Improve EC Outcomes**
*Participants will*
- *communicate information about the KIDS and advocate for its use*
- *interpret KIDS data from their school / district*
- *analyze the root causes of areas identified for improvement*

**Planning for Systemic Improvement in the Early Childhood Program**
*Participants will*
- *facilitate relational trust within the Early Childhood Leadership Team*
- *synthesize information on DAP (MC 1) and root causes of Early Childhood outcomes (MC 2) to identify an improvement priority*
- *develop an adult learning plan to affect systemic improvement*

**Promoting Family-School Connections in Early Childhood Programs**
*Participants will*
- *plan with the Early Childhood team to use four (4) conversational moves to support purposeful family connections*
- *observe teacher(s) conducting a family conference (options: IEP, Parent-Teacher, etc. . .)*
- *facilitate a meeting with parents and Early Childhood staff to plan for program improvements*

## Micro-credentials Overview

Research shows that traditional professional development has minimal impact on instructional practice or student outcomes. Micro-credentials are a competency-based form of professional learning that compel educators to demonstrate their growth through practice. This "learn by doing" approach is a practical way to help principals develop skills and competencies while they are leading.

LEAD/Ed and BloomBoard are piloting these micro-credentials to evaluate their reliability and validity. Participants will benefit from all the embedded support that BloomBoard provides through their platform: orientation sessions, 1:1 coaching, virtual professional learning communities, and facilitated discussion groups.

## Why participate?

Pilot participants will have their registration fees paid for all four (4) micro-credentials; these costs will be covered through the federal grant that has financed their design, development and implementation. Participants will also receive a stipend of up to $425 for earning the MCs.

Participants will receive Evidence of Completion of 30 hrs of PD for each micro-credential earned; those hours can be entered into their ELIS account and applied to satisfy their continuing education requirements for licensure. Pending approval from ISBE, participants may instead be eligible to receive one (1) Administrator Academy credit per year for an earned micro-credential, but that is yet to be determined. If that approval is granted, participants will need to choose whether they want 30 hrs of PD or AA credit.

## Proposed Timeline

| Tentative Schedule for BloomBoard Success Academy | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Activity** | **Proposed Date/Time (*CST*)** |
| Micro-credential Simulation | Week of **August 29 - Sept. 1, 2022** <br> Complete when convenient ~45 minutes |
| Orientation | Week of September 12, 2022 <br> 60 minutes |
| BloomBoard Learning Community (BLC) - Session 1 | Week of September 19, 2022 <br> 60 minutes *(typically after the school day, for example, 4:00-5:00 p.m.)* |
| BLC 2 | week of September 26, 2022 <br> 60 minutes |
| BLC 3 | \week of October 3, 2022 <br> 60 minutes |
| *break week* | |
| BLC 4 | Example: week of October 31, 2022 <br> 60 minutes |
| BLC 5 | Example: week of November 7, 2022 <br> 60 minutes |
| BLC 6 | Example: week of November 14, 2022 <br> 60 minutes |
| Goal: earn first micro-credential by **December 1, 2022** | |
| **Additional supports** | |
| TBD | As needed / requested |
| Goal: Earn second micro-credential **by April 1, 2023** <br> Goal: Earn third micro-credential by **December 1, 2023** <br> Goal: Earn fourth micro-credential by **April 1, 2024** | |

## Next Steps

Contact Lisa Hood at **hood1@roe17.org** for more information and to indicate your interest.