Building an Inclusive Preschool System:

How New Legislation and Promising Practices Are Decreasing Barriers to Inclusion

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First 5 Child Health, Education,

and Care Summit 2018

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California County Superintendents
Educational Services Association

Panelists

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Definition of Inclusion:

"Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports."

* Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

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QUESTION 1

There are 13 categories of disability type ranging from speech and language disability to autism and more than 80,000 students between 0 and 5 with an IEP or IFSP. Can you describe the different types of models that your county office employs to serve the entire spectrum of students with special needs? How do you prioritize inclusion in these models?

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QUESTION 2

Theme: Addressing the Financial and Regulatory Barriers to Inclusion

There are nearly a dozen different direct service early education and childcare programs for children 0 to 5, including two programs – State Special Education Preschool, and Head Start- that are specifically tailored for students with special needs. However, many of these programs are subject to different regulations and facilities requirements. How do you work with the providers in your region to address the financial and regulatory barriers to inclusion?

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QUESTION 3

Theme: Collaboration is Important to Inclusion

How has local and regional collaboration been important to creating inclusive early education and childcare programs? What partners have been essential to your inclusion models and what communication and collaboration models have you adopted?

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TOOLS

- EARLY CHILDHOOD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER:
  http://ectacenter.org/topics/inclusion/default.asp

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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