



The Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential (PECIC) Overview

With Ohio PROMISE, Ohio is on its way to ensuring that every Ohio family is healthy and supported when needed. Children with disabilities must be included with their friends, neighbors, and peers from birth so they can thrive wherever they live, play, and learn. The Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential (PECIC) was created to raise the level of awareness, knowledge, competency, and confidence of professionals attending to the needs of children with disabilities, their families, and creating an inclusive environment for all children.

This credential was created by the Ohio State Leadership Team on Early Childhood Inclusion, a dedicated group of state agency and organization professionals working with teachers and parents, to identify where Ohio is in its implementation of high-quality indicators of inclusion.

Inclusion is ensuring that everyone, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to participate fully in society. This starts with expecting our very young children with disabilities and their families to be welcomed and cared for safely in every environment where they live, play, and learn. It is furthered by allowing our children without disabilities to engage with, learn alongside, and befriend their peers. And, it is cemented in the hearts and minds of adults as not only expected but beneficial for all, when we increase awareness and knowledge. Inclusion is not just about making sure that children with disabilities have access to the same things as every other child, it is also about creating a society where all children are valued and respected. When we create an inclusive society, it benefits all children.

Three (3) levels of the credential will be offered to represent increasing levels of knowledge and implementation of inclusive practices across early care and education environments.

The credential is housed in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR), hosted by the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA). The OPR allows professionals to document and track their training and skill development, both as individuals and as linked with specific programs that serve young children.

Training towards completion of the PECIC, together with related resources, are provided in the PECIC Credential Requirements document. To apply for the PECIC, please visit the OCCRRA website. For assistance with the Ohio Professional Registry, please refer to the OPR User Guide located at <https://occrra.org/our-resources-page/>