



Rhode Island Association for the
Education of Young Children



Right from the
Start

February 7, 2024

The Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children voices its strong support for H-7291:
The Rhode Island Early Care and Education Workforce Data Act.

The Early Care and Education Workforce Registry is currently being designed to support communication of important information and professional development opportunities directly to front-line child care and early educators. The registry will help the state gather and maintain information about the educators in licensed child care and early learning programs by key factors including educational qualifications and age category of children they teach. This legislation will codify the Rhode Island early care and education workforce registry system in the general laws to meet national standards and require an annual report on the status of the registry and early care and education workforce.

In 2011, the Rhode Island Early Learning Council recommended the state create a comprehensive Early Learning Data System that met national recommendations (including demographic, education, compensation/benefits, and turnover/retention data) on the Rhode Island Early Learning Workforce. Just recently, the Department of Human Services announced that a new Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES) will launch in February 2024 that includes a new Early Care and Education Workforce Registry System and training will begin for the workforce.

We are encouraged by this momentum and hope that the General Assembly will take this step to codify it into law so that the system can continue to be developed in the coming months and years.

Thank You,

Lisa A. Hildebrand, M.A.

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