Building Vermont’s Universal PreK Research Partnership

Child Care & Early Education Policy Research Consortium Meeting
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Partnership Description

Vermont Universal PreK Research Partnership

- **Goal:** Address research needs and inform policy and practice decisions during the implementation of Vermont’s universal prekindergarten model (Act 166)

- **Members:**
  - Vermont Agency of Education: Deputy Secretary, Early Learning Programs Lead, Director of Analysis and Data Management, UPK Program Manager, & UVM Doctoral Fellow
  - Vermont Agency of Health and Human Services: Child Development Division (CDD) Deputy Director, & CDD Policy Director
Nature of the Partnership

• Funded and overseen by IES as one of ten partnerships led by the REL Northeast and Islands.

• The goal of the RELs is to conduct research and analytic technical assistance for state and local education agencies.

• Developed a research agenda setting process and published facilitator guides for building an agenda that is responsive to partners’ needs and capacity.
Nature of the Partnership

• Research Study on Trends in Child Enrollment in UPK
  – Analysis of state administrative data
  – Finalizing report for publication and dissemination

• Research Study on Characteristics of Prequalified UPK Programs
  – Supporting survey development
  – Analysis of state administrative data
  – Planning phase
Barriers & Facilitators

• Facilitating cross-agency collaboration
• Sustainability through membership changes
• Working closely with data staff
• Knowing the state policy context

• Success Story: Dissemination to the Vermont Legislature
Institutional Support & Sustainability

• Five year partnership supported through REL
• Beginning to explore ways to sustain the partnership
  – Researcher-practitioner partnership grants
  – Conference presentations
  – Evaluation contracts
Contact

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Here is our newsletter sign-up: http://eepurl.com/ddjYgn

Here is our twitter page: https://twitter.com/REL_Neil

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