



EARLY INTERVENTION/ PRESERVICE CONSORTIUM

Through collaboration, support, and communication, the Consortium addresses identified needs for a well-prepared EI workforce to improve outcomes for Part C eligible infants, toddlers, and their families.



WHY

To learn more about critical components for successful collaboration between higher education and local systems, particularly with regards to field placements.



HOW

In February 2021, focus groups were held to gather information from LSMs regarding the benefits and challenges with accepting students for EI fieldwork.

- 3 groups with 4 LSMs each
- Large, small, urban, suburban and rural systems represented
- All EI regions represented



WHAT WE'RE HEARING

Focus Group Themes

- Importance of relationships and clear communication
- Clear expectations with consistent communication
- University responsibility for student preparation
- Student attitudes, dispositions, and active application of EI learning
- Consideration of system logistics for placements
- EI Supervisor/Cooperating Teacher qualifications/disciplines
- Pandemic placement challenges



WHAT WE'RE DOING

- Identifying consistent processes for university placements
- Continuing dialogue between IHEs and local systems
- Embedding EI content into coursework prior to field experiences