



Greetings Teachers:

October is here, which means you made it through September. No matter if you have been teaching for 25 years or this is your first year, September is always a time filled with new adventures. However, the routines and relationships you established this past month will set the stage for the year. As a department, we have been witnessing first hand your accomplishments and could not be more proud of your dedication and innovativeness to ensure children are receiving a quality education! Remember, as time goes on, you can always revisit some of the concepts of the Beginning of the Year Study.

Hispanic Heritage Month continues through October 15. Find ways to talk about the history and culture through books, clothing, food and other artifacts. October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month. Remember to get yourself or someone you love checked! Below are a few updates and reminders for the month of October. A second blast will be coming out this month.

Professional Development

- Convocation will be held on October 20, 2021. This will include training for Teachers and Teacher Assistants. Additional information will be provided later in the month.

Family and Community Engagement

- On Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021 at 3:00 pm we will be hosting a virtual Family Workshop to support student learning entitled The Importance of Literacy. Families can register using the following link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/185325412297>

Curriculum and Instruction

- Creative Curriculum Studies
 - Beginning of the Year ends October 19, 2021.
 - Pre-K 3 begins Building Study and Pre-K 4 begins Sign Study on October 21, 2021
- Be sure you are implementing the Focus Standards for the Fall Collection Period and using the Updated Informing Document to support your lesson planning.

Inclusive Services

- It is important to remember that many of our students, especially our Pre-K 3 students have spent a good portion of their life in a pandemic. Developmentally inappropriate behavior is not necessarily due entirely to a child's disability. Please continue to be patient and remain embedded in Tier 1 processes and strategies that build a relationship with the students.

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- Your planning should include [social emotional support](#) and using strategies from the Preschool Developmental Guide (the purple book). Be sure to reference the [Creative Curriculum and Positive Behavior Support Alignment Document](#).
- Here are some tips from the Department of Special Education that you can use
 - If you have a student with significant behavior concerns, your first step is to build a relationship with that student
 - Always remember to approach your student with empathy
 - Avoid judgment - we never know how past experiences are impacting behavior.
 - Spend quality time with the student whenever possible such as ask your TA to run Large Group meeting while you support your student as a “para”
 - Find out what your student loves by doing preference assessments, parental questionnaires, and observations. Take the time to watch their favorite show, play their favorite game, or engage in their favorite activity
 - Empower your students by giving them a voice. Let your student make choices whenever possible. If there is limited language or a language barrier, create visuals and [feeling charts](#) to help support them.

Developmental Screenings:

- The ESI-R Screenings began October 4 and continue through October 18th
 - [ESI-R](#) will be used with all students **new** to pre-k who **do not** have an IEP based on the [ESI-R Screening Timelines and Guidance](#)
 - All documents including the [Flow Chart](#), [Initial Family Letter](#), [Results Family Letter](#), [Classroom Roster](#) (download to use), [Family Signature Form](#), and [Screening Tools](#) can be found in PIE.
 - Please see your respective PIRT Coach with any lingering questions regarding ESI-R.
- **NBOE Head Start locations**, please be sure the [ASQ:SE-2](#) have been completed by October 18th and inputted into Child Plus by October 22, 2021.

Performance Based Assessment

- October 7, 2021 is the mid-cycle check. Be sure you are reviewing your class profile and identifying students who may need additional support and reviewing your documentation status report to create a plan to ensure you are capturing sufficient data for each dimension for each child.
- As a reminder, you should be entering data into GOLD on a daily basis. The information you collect and analyze daily should then be used to inform your planning.
- If you still see students from last year, please contact your administrator so that they can archive the students. Please do not create duplicate classrooms. They will be deleted.
- Please review your status for Interrater reliability under Develop. All Teachers (except new Teachers working on the Intro to GOLD modules) should be reliable.
- Be sure you are working with your administrator to ensure that you have time for LASW or data meetings monthly. Please review the LASW protocols and have your administrator submit your sign-in sheets <https://tinyurl.com/signinforms21-22>.

Hatch

- Login information was sent to all staff in either July or September. If you did not receive an email, please go to the [Ignite by Hatch](#) website, select forgot password and enter the email that is used in GOLD.
- Training opportunities are still available on Saturdays and in November. You can register [here](#). Please note a Zoom link will be sent the day prior to training. If you need to change the date you registered for, please complete the form again. Only the most recent entry is kept.

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- About 2800 students have been added to Hatch. Please look through your classrooms, deactivate any students no longer in your class and add any students still missing.
- As a reminder, students should never use technology for more than 30 minutes a week and Ignite by Hatch should never be used as a small group.
- Think about ways to share info about Hatch with families. Consider using some of the resources in the [Hatch Hub](#).

Program Assessments

- ECERS and TPOT will be conducted as per state guidelines. Additional information will be made available.

Nelson Mandela said “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” Continue the great work you do each day. Your impact will have a lasting effect on your students and their families.