

The EarlyEdU Alliance

The EarlyEdU Alliance is a collaboration of early childhood experts and stakeholders—from higher education, government agencies, and community organizations—working to meet the need for high quality bachelor's degree programs that are accessible, affordable, and relevant for current and prospective early learning professionals. In its effort to meet this need, the EarlyEdU Alliance has developed in-person and online higher education courses and also maintains a large repository of professional development resources, including the Coaching Companion,™ a video sharing and coaching feedback app that enables students and instructors to engage in dialogue via a virtual community of practice. The EarlyEdU Alliance is committed to supporting and transforming the early learning workforce, its leaders, and its training providers.

The EarlyEdU Alliance:

- Offers a comprehensive set of in-person and online college courses that can be used, at no cost, by partnering colleges and universities.
- Provides professional development and a community of practice for participating faculty and other providers of professional development.
- Supports the Coaching Companion, an innovative video sharing and annotation platform.
- Creates a forum for state teams to address their workforce needs.
- Develops, maintains, and curates research-informed professional development resources.

Our approach:

- Applies an intentional teaching framework to the longstanding gap between theory and practice.
- Uses the power of video by embedding examples of teaching, presenting the expertise of guest speakers, and sharing and commenting on each other's teaching via a virtual community of practice.
- Transforms the instructor into a job-embedded coach for early childhood teachers who are enrolled in degree programs.
- Incorporates the Coaching Companion to enable supervised competency-based assignments and create communities of reflection and practice.

The EarlyEdU Alliance is not a stand-alone university and does not confer degrees; rather, the Alliance includes a growing number of Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) that incorporate one or more of the EarlyEdU courses, as well as the Coaching Companion, into their programs of study. EarlyEdU programming helps IHE to better meet the need for accessible, affordable, relevant, and effective early childhood programs that lead to college degrees—degrees that matter.

Benefits for faculty include:

- Access to EarlyEdU's large repository of professional development resources including courses and the Coaching Companion.
- Participation in a community of practice with other faculty.
- Participation in a national summer institute.
- More time to observe and coach students as less time is required for course preparation.

Benefits for students include:

- Authentic, applied assignments.
- Quality feedback on use of evidence-based teaching practices via the Coaching Companion.
- Flexible course scheduling.

Benefits for state teams include:

- Access to courses, the Coaching Companion, and a repository of professional development resources.
- Participation in a national network of early childhood experts, faculty, and policy makers, and participation in a national summer institute.
- Continuous program enhancement as EarlyEdU resources are aligned with other partner assets.

Benefits for the field include:

- Teachers receive comprehensive preparation in child development and evidence-based teaching practices.
- Teachers demonstrate competency in the knowledge and skills needed to meet the expectations for early childhood teaching.
- Access to the resources and methods to meet workforce needs.

Because of generous financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Office of Head Start, EarlyEdU courses and professional development resources are available at no cost to consumers.

Contact the EarlyEdU Alliance at: info@earlyedualliance.org

Visit our website at: www.earlyedualliance.org