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Missouri Early Childhood Program Director's Credential

Issued by: The Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri (AEYC-MO)

Requirements

1. General Education - minimum of an Associate's Degree
2. Teaching/Learning Knowledge and Skills
 - 24 child-related college credit hours in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
3. Management/Leadership Knowledge and Skills
 - 18 college credit-hours in general business management and leadership
 - or
 - Approved 9 credit-hour block in Early Childhood Program Management and Leadership
4. Membership in a child-related professional organization

Lifetime Credential - No renewal or expiration date

Application Process

1. Enroll in the Professional Achievement & Recognition System (PARS) with the OPEN Initiative
2. Complete the Missouri Early Childhood Program Director's Credential Application Form and submit it to the AEYC-MO office with the application fee

Recommendations

The Subcommittee offers the following recommendation to the AEYC-MO Director's Credential Stakeholders:

1. The nine credit-hour block in early childhood program management and leadership will include four core areas: financial operations, human resources, leadership, and program operation.
 - a. Instruction in the core area of financial operation must include but is not limited to accounting, budgeting, marketing, physical plant, grant writing, and benefits.
 - b. Instruction in the core area of human resources must include but is not limited to supervision, professional development, human relationships, adult development, legal aspects, and observation.
 - c. Instruction in the core area of leadership must include but is not limited to advocacy, collaboration, ethics, creative problem solving, strategic planning, organizational management, mentoring, and reflective field experience.
 - d. Instruction in the core area of program operation must include but is not limited to regulations and standards, program evaluation, and policy making.
2. Language in the draft criteria regarding the specialized coursework should read, "Associates Degree with 24 credits in Early Childhood plus 9 credit hours in Management and Leadership."
3. The AEYC-MO Director's Credential shall be issued with a 5 year renewal requiring 18 clock-hours per year training in early childhood education and program management and leadership.