

Creating a State of Articulation

Defining Articulation

An articulation agreement is an officially approved agreement that matches coursework between schools. These are designed to help students make a smooth transition when transferring from one institution of education to another. Part of creating an educational pathway and building capacity to meet required professional standards involves developing and enforcing policies around articulation. Articulation includes the transfer of professional development participants' credentials, courses, credits, degrees, etc., as well as student performance-based competencies, from one program or institution to another, ideally without a loss of credits or educational status.¹

Articulation agreements can be put in place among partnering institutions located in multiple states, within one state or across a region. In addition, education providers may offer certificates or diplomas that can be transferred among providers such as between a high school and college or a national and state provider such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate.

Supporting Diversity

As the population of the United States becomes increasingly diverse, the demand for more teachers of diverse backgrounds with 4-year degrees in early care and education rises as well. Articulation agreements between 2- and 4-year universities support these efforts by creating a more efficient educational process that is accessible to a diverse student population.²

Proven Strategies for Moving Articulation Forward

- Build a common course catalog of college courses between different institutions offering like degrees to standardize and convey course information
- Accredite community colleges to provide a measure of quality that is familiar to universities
- Form a longstanding committee of 2- and 4-year faculty to support ongoing work on articulation
- Compile research about student outcomes and systems barriers to make the case for articulation
- Hold an articulation conference to assess needs of stakeholders and develop an action plan
- Identify state models and share information with partners
- Explore legislation to require articulation
- Use T.E.A.C.H. scholarships as a carrot to leverage articulation between 2- and 4-year institutions

Benefits of Articulation in Early Childhood

High-quality articulation agreements provide benefits to students, universities, the early childhood field and society at large.

- Articulation agreements between 2- and 4-year institutions of higher education ensure better communication and mobility between institutions, an educational process that promotes continued education, and a new and diverse recruiting pool for universities.
- Articulation agreements support improved access to higher education for a well-educated and diverse early care and education workforce that will serve children and families.
- High-quality articulation agreements aim to meet the demand for teachers with 4-year degrees in early childhood education to sustain high-quality classroom environments for children.
- Articulation agreements create a workforce with higher education that leads to greater career opportunities for teachers and improved compensation.

For more information:
<http://www.uncg.edu/hdf/programs/ECLPN%20policy%20paper%20no.%20102.pdf>



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¹ NAEYC Policy Blueprint for State Early Childhood Professional Development Systems, http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/policy/ecwsi/Workforce_Designs.pdf, pg. 17

² Moving Beyond Barriers to Articulation: Developing Agreements Between Two- and Four-Year Institutions in Early Childhood <http://www.uncg.edu/hdf/programs/ECLPN%20policy%20paper%20no.%20102.pdf>