



Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children

Dear colleagues,

Last week, Vermont's legislature made a first-in-the-nation commitment to equity and excellence in early childhood education. As our Board President **Christina Goodwin** said at the Statehouse celebration, "This is the relief we've been waiting for!" Thank you legislators, advocates, and especially our dedicated early childhood educators, who show up every day to give Vermont's children the strongest possible start.

The \$125 million in annual investments start rolling this summer, with \$20 million in readiness grants to help programs hire and expand. The new System for Program Access to Resources for Quality Supports (SPARQS), administered by VTAEYC, is ramping up at the same time.

Together with our partners in the early childhood education ecosystem, like Building Bright Futures, the Child Development Division, First Children's Finance, Let's Grow Kids, Northern Lights, and the Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance, we're thinking about the support early childhood education programs and educators will need in a new era of abundance and expansion.

Here at VTAEYC, we're growing rapidly to meet these needs (see below for job openings!) Our areas of laser-focus? For programs: quality improvement supports. For educators: pathway supports and equitable access to preparation programs. For our future: supporting a recognized early childhood education profession.



And if you're in for that ECE profession, say so. We're working toward our goal of 1,000 early childhood educators to sign our ["We're In!" pledge of support](#).

Early childhood educators shape the future. We're getting a glimpse of our own future right now. I'm happy to be here with you.

My best,

Sharron Harrington

Executive Director

VTAEYC is hiring for multiple positions!

VTAEYC is growing! We have several opportunities to join our wonderful team.

- **Associate Director for Early Childhood Educator Engagement**
- **Operations and Administrative Coordinator**

We're excited to build our team to administer Vermont's brand-new System for Program Access to Resources for Quality Supports (SPARQS):

- **Associate Director for ECE Program Quality**
- **ECE Program Quality Support Specialist (6 regional positions)**

[See here for details and application information for all positions](#)

National attention to Advancing as a Profession

In the first public meeting of the national Commission on Excellence in Early Childhood Education, Advancing as a Profession Project Coordinator **Susan Titterton** was asked to present on "A Statewide Effort to Engage Early Childhood Educators in Shaping the State's ECE Workforce Policies."



[Here's the video clip](#) (starts at 49:35) which was viewed in real time by hundreds of ECE leaders around the country.

The Summer 2023 edition of NAEYC member publication *Young Children* featured a narrative by Core Team member **Kaitie Northey**, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood at UVM, and Project Coordinator **Susan Titterton**, describing how higher ed programs in Vermont collaborated to align with the *Unifying Framework*.

[Read the article here](#) (requires NAEYC membership)

These national platforms help ECE leaders in other states learn from our process - important sharing as we move toward a national profession with portable individual licensure.



"Celebrate visibility:" Sharron's op-ed connects visibility, families, DAP

Sharron Harrington's June op-ed describes developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) as a critical expertise for early childhood educators, that supports children and their families, and is synonymous with equity and inclusion.

"Every family must be welcome in order to support growth and learning in every child. And that is the job of early childhood educators."

["Celebrate visibility: It's what's best for young children" on VTDigger.org](#)



"This is the relief we've been waiting for!"

"Until today, early childhood education programs have been reducing hours and limiting spaces. Trying to stay open for one more year, month, or week. This is the relief that early childhood educators, families, and businesses have been waiting for. "

This is the speech made by VTAEYC Board President **Christina Goodwin** before early childhood educators, children, families, advocates, and lawmakers on June 21, 2023, to celebrate the enactment of the 2023 Child Care Bill.



[Read Christina's speech](#)

[Watch Let's Grow Kids Instagram Live recording](#) (Christina's comments are 31 minutes in)

Questions about the new law? Contact CDD

In a [letter to the early childhood education community](#), CDD Deputy Commissioner **Janet McLaughlin** wrote, "The Child Development Division (CDD) is charged with carrying out the bulk of the law, in partnership with other state agencies and in collaboration with stakeholders. We look forward to working with you to ensure that children, families, and program staff receive the full benefit of this important law."

The CDD is already offering implementation resources:

- A [dedicated website](#) for H.217 implementation updates
- Two H.217 Overview Webinars on **July 11: 1 pm webinar** and **6 pm webinar**
- An invitation to ask questions via the email address ahs.dcfcdinfo@vermont.gov, and a promise to respond directly

In addition: [First Children's Finance is launching a newsletter](#). Consider subscribing for more important updates!

Award nominations - last chance to nominate for ECE of the Year!

Each year, VTAEYC honors exceptional early childhood educators and allied professionals for their commitment. VTAEYC seeks nominations for the following awards:

- ★ Children's Champion
- ★ Distinguished Service to Children
- ★ Emerging Leader
- ★ Outstanding Member
- ★ Vermont ECE Student of the Year
- ★ Early Childhood Educator of the Year - **hurry for this one, the deadline to nominate is July 1!**



For most awards, you must be a VTAEYC+NAEYC member to submit a nomination.

All details at vtaec.org/annual-awards

Congratulations to recent ECE graduates!

🎉 Congratulations to high school and Career and Technical Education center graduates moving into an ECE career!

🎉 Congratulations to higher ed program graduates who just earned a degree in early childhood education!

🎉 Congratulations to early childhood educators who achieved credentials and Early Childhood Level Certificates!

🎉 Congratulations all early childhood educators celebrating educational accomplishments!



Did you know: Achieving a degree, credential, or Early Childhood Level Certificate may mean you are eligible for a bonus? [See details here](#)

Upcoming dates from VTAEYC and partners

TODAY, June 30

➔ **Northern Lights: Final day to complete Professional Development Survey**

Results from this annual survey help inform PD offerings and are shared with PD sponsors. Complete the survey and enter to win a NAEYC resource book!

[Take the Northern Lights survey.](#)

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TOMORROW, July 1

➔ **Final day to nominate for Early Childhood Educator of the Year.**

[Submit your nomination](#)

➔ **CDD: STARS Revision Rollout Begins**

The Child Development Division's STARS Team is hosting weekly online STARS Revision training sessions for program staff to engage and become familiar with the new system changes. Training sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons through late July.

[Learn more and register for a STARS Revision training](#)

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July 10

→ **Castleton/VSU: Last day to register for Early Childhood Educators Institute 2023**

Online, live and interactive using Zoom video meetings on July 25, 27 and August 1 & 3, 2023. A variety of early childhood content strands designed to deepen practice, meet child care professional development requirements, and contribute to early childhood or elementary educator licensing competencies and/or renewal of educator licenses and endorsements.

Featured speakers in 2023 include **Sharron Harrington** and **Ann Moore** together with the 2023 VTAEYC Exchange fellows.

[Learn more and register](#)

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July 11

→ **CDD: H.217 Overview Webinars**

CDD is actively planning to implement H.217 in partnership with other state agencies and community partners. Some components of the law will be effective on July 1, 2023; others will roll out over the next two years. In the weeks and months ahead, CDD will communicate this information out to the state, and will give child care providers, families, and community partners opportunities to engage and provide feedback to the division. In the short term, CDD will be holding two H.217 Overview Webinars on July 11, at 1PM and 6PM EST.

Register for the [1 pm webinar](#) or [6 pm webinar](#)

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July 15

→ **Last day to apply for Fall 2023 T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont scholarships**

All scholarship models available: vtaeyc.org/teach

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August 1

→ **Final day to nominate for VTAEYC Annual Awards**

[Submit your nomination](#)



Visit the new vtaeyc.org

Forward this email to an early childhood educator
or advocate for early childhood education.

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