

Updates on the Maine Credentials

MRTQ PDN currently administers four Maine Credentials: Infant Toddler, Youth Development, Director, and Inclusion. (You can read all about the Maine Credentials – **including important updates on requirements** – on our website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>.) With the growing popularity of the Maine Credentials, staff at MRTQ PDN have been working to streamline the application process and increase consistency among the different Credentials.

What you need to know...

- **Beginning on April 1st, 2018, MRTQ PDN is implementing a quarterly review schedule for Credential applications.** This means that while you can still submit your application and portfolio any time, the Review Committees will be reviewing materials in **January, April, July, and October**. Applications must be received by the 1st of the month of review (e.g. April 1st for April review); materials received after the deadline will be reviewed during the next review period.
- **All applicants will be contacted by the final day of the review month (e.g. by April 30th) to inform them of their next steps.** Applicants with completed materials will be contacted regarding an on-site visit (and family surveys, if applicable). Applicants with incomplete materials will be notified of missing items **and will have 60 days to submit completed materials.**
- **MRTQ PDN is now encouraging all applicants to submit a digital portfolio.** While this is not a requirement at this time, digital portfolios are preferred. If you have questions about creating a digital portfolio, we recommend that you consider taking the "Your Professional Development Portfolio" training, listed on page 3 of this newsletter!



If you have additional questions about the Maine Credentials, please contact Alli Penan at 207-780-5864 or allison.penan@maine.edu.

New Look for Pathways!

MRTQ PDN is presenting our new, updated logo with this edition of *Pathways!* You can also look forward to seeing the new logo on our NEW website (coming soon!).

What has not changed is the services that we offer, which include:

- The Registry
- Training and the Online Training Calendar
- Communities of Practice (CoPs)
- On-site consultation
- Maine Credentials
- The Inclusion Warm Line (see page 4 for more information!)
- *Pathways* and our weekly e-newsletter, *SHORTcuts* (more info on page 4!)

With offices in Portland, Augusta, Orono, Ellsworth, and Calais, MRTQ PDN staff can reach all of Maine easier than ever before. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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How to reach us...

By phone: 1-888-900-0055 (toll-free)
207-780-5646 (TTY)

By fax: 207-780-5817

By email: mrtq.contact@maine.edu

On the web: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads>

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/maineroads

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/maineroads

SPRING 2018 TRAINING SCHEDULE

For complete training descriptions, driving directions, instructor information, and the link to register, please visit the **Online Training Calendar** at:

<http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu>.

For a full list of MRTQ PDN Training Policies, click:

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pdfs/TrainingRegistrationPolicies.pdf>

Introduction to Infant Mental Health: Issues and Practice (18 hours) – Face-to-Face

Delivered in partnership with the Maine Association for Infant Mental Health, this training covers an introduction to mental health in early childhood for children prenatal through age eight.



The course will provide specific information on attachments, temperament, relationship building, use of self, and principles of

infant mental health practice, assessment, identification, and support of family strengths.

Dates: Saturdays, March 24th and April 14th & 21st; 9:00am-3:30pm (please bring a lunch)

Location: Augusta location TBD

Inclusive Child Care (30 hours) – Online

This training covers topics to fully include and support all children and families in center-based or family child care settings. Topics to be covered include: laws relating to inclusion, universal design, building inclusive communities, working with families, and challenging behaviors.

Dates: April 11th – June 20th

Seeing Stars? Training descriptions that include a star(s) will meet a requirement for the following Maine Credentials:



Director Credential



Youth Development Credential



Infant Toddler Credential 1



Inclusion Credential

Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards Trainings

This training gives an overview of Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS), including each Domain and ideas for integrating the content into a variety of settings. Each module introduces content and also highlights specific practices and skills designed to foster participants' abilities to utilize the MELDS independently once the training is complete. The training also has an intentional focus on principles for working with diverse populations and creating inclusive, developmentally appropriate learning environments.

MELDS (30 hours) – Online

Modules begin on Wednesday mornings and end on Tuesday evenings. Participants who successfully complete all of the activities in the training will receive a certificate for 30 hours of training.

Dates: April 25th – June 20th

Bridge to MELDS (15 hours) – Online

This is the 15-hour training that is meant for those practitioners who have successfully completed the 30-hour training "Maine's Early Learning Guidelines." Modules begin on Wednesday mornings and end on Tuesday evenings. Participants who successfully complete all of the activities in the training will receive a certificate for 15 hours of training.

Dates: April 25th – May 30th

Training Reminders

- Pre-registration is required for all MRTQ PDN trainings; walk-in registrations are NOT accepted. Many trainings fill quickly, so we advise that you register early!
- MRTQ PDN is sometimes able to schedule additional training based on demand; if you try to register for a training that is full, we highly recommend that you place your name on the waiting list. If a second session is added, those on the waiting list receive priority registration!



Caring for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families (30 hours) – Online



This training covers a wide range of topics with the objective of helping practitioners working with infants and toddlers develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Through this training participants will have opportunities to explore resources, share strategies and ideas, and consider ways to enhance the environments in which they work and play with children.

Dates: April 11th – June 20th

Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development (30 hours) – Online



This training is designed to guide providers through the history, creation, and use of this publication, which outlines learning and development from birth to age three. The modules focus on the document and on developing understanding relationships.

Dates: April 25th – June 20th

Your Professional Development Portfolio (9 hours) – Online

This training is designed to provide resources and detailed information on how to create a professional portfolio that illustrates an early childhood or out-of-school time professional's knowledge, experience, and skills.

This training will be required for those submitting Maine Credential applications beginning on October 1, 2018.

Dates: April 25th – May 16th



Partners in Caring: Families and Caregivers (12 hours) – Online

Children experience the best quality of care when parent(s), families, and caregivers are partners with the same goals for the child.

This training covers information about families today, roles and boundary-setting, and verbal/written communication to reduce potential areas of conflict between families and caregivers.

Dates: April 25th – May 23rd



Positive Supports and Challenging Behavior (15 hours) – Online



This training provides a brief introduction to preventing and responding to situations of challenging behavior in early childhood programs. The goal of this training is to help you feel more confident when faced with challenging behaviors in your program.

Dates: May 2nd – June 6th

Foundations of Inclusion: Relevant Laws, Featuring the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (6 hours) – Online



This training will give an introduction to the history of disabilities and inclusion in the United States as well as relevant laws governing the way inclusive services and supports are delivered.

Dates: June 13th – 27th





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The Inclusion Warm Line Is Here to Help!

Call toll-free: **1-844-209-5964**

Email: inclusion.warmline@maine.edu

Did you know that MRTQ PDN has an Inclusion Warm Line? We do! The Inclusion Warm Line is here to:

- Talk through an issue or problem with you.
- Provide you with resources and strategies that you can use in your program.
 - Share information about other MRTQ PDN services that could support your program.
 - Assist you in making connections to other community or national resources and supports.



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Stay Up-to-Date with MRTQ PDN – Get *SHORTcuts*

Did you know that MRTQ PDN has a weekly e-newsletter, called *SHORTcuts*? We keep it brief and feature content like:

- Recognition for programs achieving accreditation or practitioners earning a Maine Credential;
- Excerpts and links to state and national information and resources, such as free training webinars.
- A listing of Maine conferences and courses related to early childhood and out-of-school time.

All Registry members with web access already receive *SHORTcuts*. If you do not have web access, head over to the online Registry to get signed up: <https://mrtq.musk.usm.maine.edu>.

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