



DC EARLY EDX™

2026 DC EARLY EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

Dear Administrator,

On Friday, April 17, early childhood professionals in the District of Columbia are invited to attend the 2026 DC Early Educator Experience (DC Early EdX). This free professional development experience has been designed as an opportunity for early childhood professionals to learn, network, advocate, and celebrate in recognition of the Month of the Young Child. More than 3,000 early childhood education professionals have participated over the last few years, and we are working behind the scenes to make this annual event a success.

By participating, attendees will be able to reflect on their roles in a group setting with their peers, while also learning skills and strategies to improve their practice.

We recognize that you are balancing many decisions right now. Here are additional details to help you determine if this experience is the right fit for you and the early childhood educators at your program:

Event Date: Friday, April 17, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Audience: DC Early EdX is by educators, for educators, and is designed for educators who teach ages 0 to 8. There's something for everyone — early learning practitioners, teachers, assistant teachers, administrators, directors and principals. Sessions will be tailored to represent the ages educators teach or the settings they work in.

Professional development hours: Participants will earn up to seven professional development hours from an OSSE-approved training organization. Core knowledge areas will include Curriculum, Inclusive Practices, Personal Development and Self-Care, Professionalism and Advocacy, and Social-Emotional Development, Mental Health, and Child Growth and Development. Attendees must attend all sessions to receive the maximum number of hours. This year, attendees will have the opportunity to choose the breakout sessions that are of most interest to them. During each session, there will be nine breakout speakers to choose from.

Participation verification: Attendees will be given a certification of participation at the event. After the event, they will receive a certification of their professional development hours earned via email. Participation in sessions will be tracked, and attendees will receive hours based on the number of sessions that they attend.

Appreciation: Participants who attend will hear inspiring messages, receive an event swag bag, and have the space to celebrate with fellow early childhood education professionals.



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Cost: The cost of this event is free due to sponsorship from the Bainum Family Foundation and support from this year's hosts: District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children (DCAEYC); District of Columbia Head Start Association (DCHSA); D.C. Family Child Care Association (DCFCCA); and Multicultural Spanish Speaking Providers Association (MSSPA).

Registration: Each participant will need to register so we can track their registration and verify their participation. Space is limited and we expect registration to fill up quickly. If you are planning to come as a group, we highly recommend creating a Group Registration Code to reserve space for your entire program. Please visit our website for details on how to utilize the Group Registration feature.

For subsidy providers wanting to close for a professional development day: Download the Appendix D form from our website and follow the instructions to complete it. Submit your program's Appendix D form to your Education Service Monitors no later than **Tuesday, March 17**. For the form, visit <https://dcearlyedx.org/resources/>.

For additional details about DC Early EdX, please visit our website at dcearlyedx.org.