

What Are The Module Topics?

Expert Advisory Panel Members

2025-2026

PK-3 LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- ✓ Curriculum and Instruction
- ✓ Assessment and Evaluation
- ✓ Leadership



**Make a difference
in PK-3rd grade
to improve outcomes
through high school
and beyond.**

Developed in cooperation with the UConn Neag School of Education, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Connecticut State Department of Education.

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The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood provided initial funding for this project to UConn.

1 PreK-3rd Grade Curriculum and Instruction

- Learning Standards for PK-3
- K-3 Social, Emotional and Intellectual Habits
- Executive Function and purposeful play
- Intentional, balanced teaching
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Learning environments
- Child development and responsible inclusive practices
- Brain research and neuroscience

2 Assessment Practices with Young Children and Evaluation of Teachers and Programs

- Collaborative inquiry processes and responsible use of child assessments
- Use of formative and summative assessments with young children
- Use of the Connecticut teacher evaluation guidelines, evidence guides, and rubrics with PK-3rd grade teachers
- Quality indicators for program evaluation using a cycle of continuous improvement
- Data and cultural literacy

3 Leading for Equity, Excellence, and Early Success

- Leading a culture of caring, competence, and excellence (FirstSchool)
- Leading for learning with children, teachers, and other professionals
- Building partnerships with families, care givers, and community
- Self-Leadership as your way of being
- Systems thinking
- Conflict management
- Public relations, advocacy, and politics

The economic, academic, and societal benefits of quality early education are well documented.

Contemporary research in child development shows widespread evidence investments in early childhood education programs produce lifelong benefits. Creating coherent, integrated systems from PK to grade 3 have shown learning gaps can be reduced, achievement and opportunities for success enhanced.

As a participant in this program, you will become a critical spokesperson for advancements in PK-3rd grade, which will contribute to better student outcomes at all grade levels and into adulthood.

But which investments are most valuable? How do I support adult learning in a systemic way? How do I communicate the value of early childhood programs in my community? How do I engage families in ways that matter?

This is where we come in. We've created an executive style program to help you bring new skills and leadership to your school, district, and community. You will:

- Create plans to improve coherence and quality of early learning based on a comprehensive PK-3rd grade approach.
- Observe classroom instruction to identify both quality indicators as well as practices that interfere with learning.
- Lead with a focus on reduced achievement gaps and socially just classrooms.
- Clearly and credibly communicate strategies and benefits to diverse stakeholders in schools, districts, communities, and across the state.

This program provides practical information designed for immediate application in your classroom, your school, your district, and your community.

The PK-3 Leadership Program is divided into three modules, each comprised of 30 hours of learning, with a small cohort of leaders. The modules are organized around relevant topics that will give you the conceptual understanding and practical skills necessary to lead reforms aimed at improving outcomes for PK-3rd grade. Instructors and guest speakers include nationally recognized experts in their field.

Module One, Curriculum and Instruction:

You will gain a deeper understanding of the newest research in early cognitive, social, and emotional development. You will develop the skills and knowledge for planning a cohesive and integrated system for learning environments and teaching practices that allow children to grow and thrive.

Module Two, Assessment and Evaluation: You will focus on collaborative inquiry processes, assessment, and evaluation of young children to improve instruction and learning. Indicators for program evaluation, as well as teacher evaluation guidelines, will help you create a system for continuous improvement.

Module Three, Leading for Equity, Excellence, and Early Success: You will be guided through the critical components of leadership inside schools, the community, and across government and private agencies.

Who should apply?

- Elementary school principals, assistant principals, and teacher leaders
- Early learning directors and program managers, including childcare center directors
- School superintendents, assistant superintendents, and central office administrators

How much does it cost?

\$2560 (the cost of the program is \$5225; the reduced tuition of \$2560 is a result of funding from the CT Office of Early Childhood)

Where do we meet?

ACES in Hamden, Connecticut

What are the program dates and times?

MODULE 1: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

July 14 - 18, 2025 - 9am - 3pm

MODULE 2: ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

October 17, 18, 2025 - 9am - 3pm

November 7, 8, 2025 - 9am - 3pm

November 12, 19, 2025 - 5pm - 8pm (virtual)

MODULE 3: LEADERSHIP

February 27, 28, 2026 - 9am - 3pm

March 27, 28, 2026 - 9am - 3pm

April 22, 2026 - 5pm - 8pm (virtual)

April 29, 2026 - 5pm - 8pm

For more information, visit

pk3leadership.education.uconn.edu

