

Professionalism and Ethical Practice

Initial Practice Based Professional Standards for
Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special
Educators (EI/ECSE)

7.1



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Standard 7

Candidates identify and engage with the profession of early intervention and early childhood special education (EI/ECSE) by exhibiting skills in reflective practice, advocacy, and leadership while adhering to ethical and legal guidelines. Evidence-based and recommended practices are promoted and used by candidates.



Component 7.1

- Candidates engage with the profession of EI/ECSE by participating in local, regional, national, and/or international activities and professional organizations.

Objectives

- Identify and participate in local and regional activities sponsored by DEC or another EI/ECSE professional organization.
- Participates in local, regional, national, and/or international activities sponsored by DEC or another EI/ECSE professional organization.



Who is DEC?

- “The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) promotes policies and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (0-8) who have or at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.”
- DEC is a special interest division within the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- DEC is an international membership organization

Why Should I Join a Professional Organization?

- What reasons can you think of?



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Provides Networking Opportunities

Networking:

- allows for the exchange of information
- provides opportunities to build relationships with other professionals
- gives you access to new ideas and allows you to contribute
- helps you grow and evolve as an educator



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Activity

- Create Name Tag
- Share with at least one other person



Develops Leadership Skills

- When you belong to a professional organization, you have opportunities to develop leadership skills within the EI/ECSE profession.
 - Participate in local, regional, and national activities
 - Contribute by being on boards or workgroups
 - Join advocacy efforts to influence policy changes



Activity

- Think of one person who you would consider a leader
- Name a key attribute you think they possess



Connects you to Policy and Advocacy Opportunities

- Children's Action Network (CAN)
- Advocacy Letters
- Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Policy and Advocacy Resources



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Activity

- Do you know your legislators?
- [State Legislature Websites | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)



Receive Academic Journal Subscriptions

- With DEC membership you get 2 academic journal subscriptions;
 - Journal for Early Intervention
 - Young Exceptional Children



Provides Professional Development

- Learning Decks
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Course Modules



Bridges Research to Practice Gap

- DEC Recommended Practices (RP) are a guide for parents and professionals.
- The RP's can assist practitioners working with children who have or are at-risk for developmental delays or disabilities.
- The RP are supported by research and uphold the values and beliefs of the EI/ECSE field.



Supports Research

- The DEC research committee engages in activities and initiatives to meet the needs of the field and advance the EI/ECSE science in order to improve outcomes for children.



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Provides Career Support

- Job Listings
- Career Coaching
- Career Learning Center
- Reference Checking
- Resume Writing



Free Resources

- DEC has many free resources on their website for members and non-members.
- You can access local, regional and national information as a non-member
- You can also sign up for email news alerts



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Professional Organizations/Resources

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Zero to Three (ZTT)
- Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health
- National Resource Center for Para-educators
- National Head Start Association

Activity

- Name one of the benefits we discussed that you feel would be valuable to you as a professional working in EI/ECSE
- List one way you can get involved in local, state or national activities.



References

- [Become A Member | DEC \(dec-sped.org\)](https://dec-sped.org)
- [Standard 7: Professionalism and Ethical Practice | The Early Childhood Personnel Center \(ecpcta.org\)](https://ecpcta.org)

Disclaimer

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