

Professionalism and Ethical Practice

Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special Educators

7.3



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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: 7.3

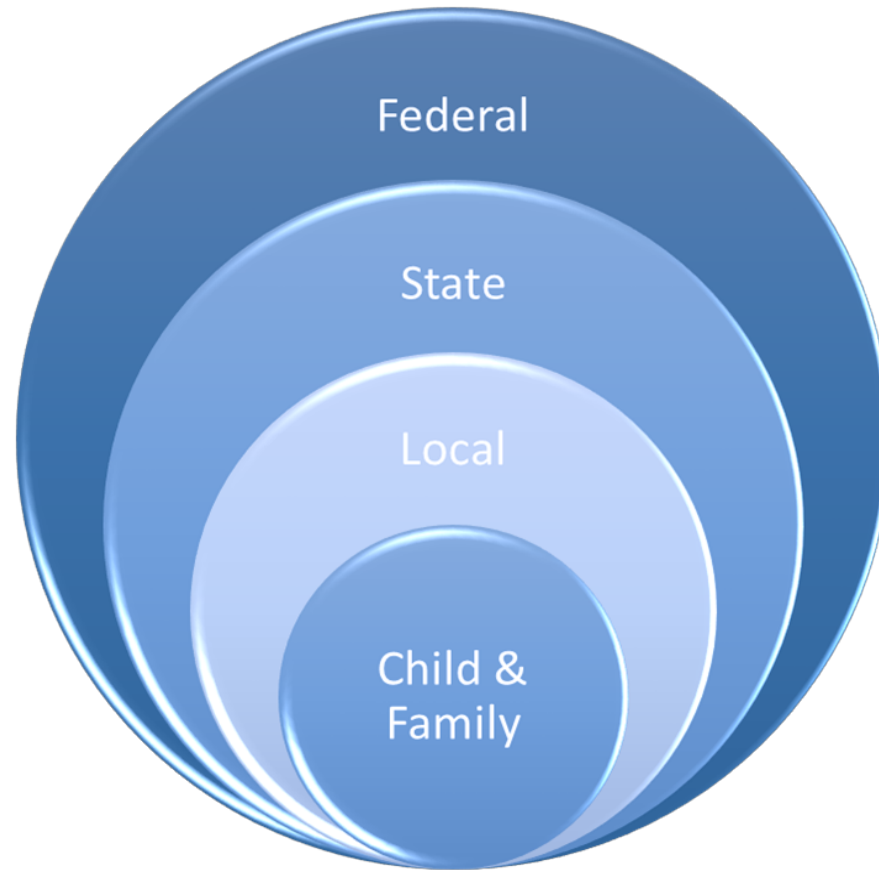
Candidates exhibit leadership skills in advocating for improved outcomes for young children, families, and the profession, including the promotion of and use of evidence-based practices and decision-making.

Objectives

- Describe the role of leadership and advocacy to improve outcomes for young children, families, and the profession.
- Describe the use of evidence-based practices and decision making to improve outcomes for young children, families, and the profession.



Know the System



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Definition of Public Policy

A decision or action of government that addresses problems and issues.



Advocacy Definitions

- “The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal.” (Merriam-Webster)
- Actions that recommend, argue for a cause, support or defend, or plead on behalf of others. (Alliance for Justice)
- “...understanding and engaging in activities that inform the legislative process at the federal, state, or local level.” (Stegenga et al., 2020, p.4)



Policy Evolution

Federal

- Statute
- Regulations
- Policy Letters
- Court Decisions



State

- Laws/Codes
- Regulations
- Policies
- Procedures
- Guidance
- Hearing or Court Decisions



Local

- County/City Rules
- Provider Agency Policies and Procedures
- School Board Policies and Procedures



Who Are the Policy Makers?

Federal

- U.S. Congress
Representatives
Senators
- Agencies (e.g.,)
U.S. Dept. of Ed
Dept. of Health &
Human Services



State

- Legislators
- State agencies
(e.g.,)
Education
Part C Lead
- State Board of
Education



Local

- School Board
- Part C Agency
Head Start
- Childcare
- Private Schools

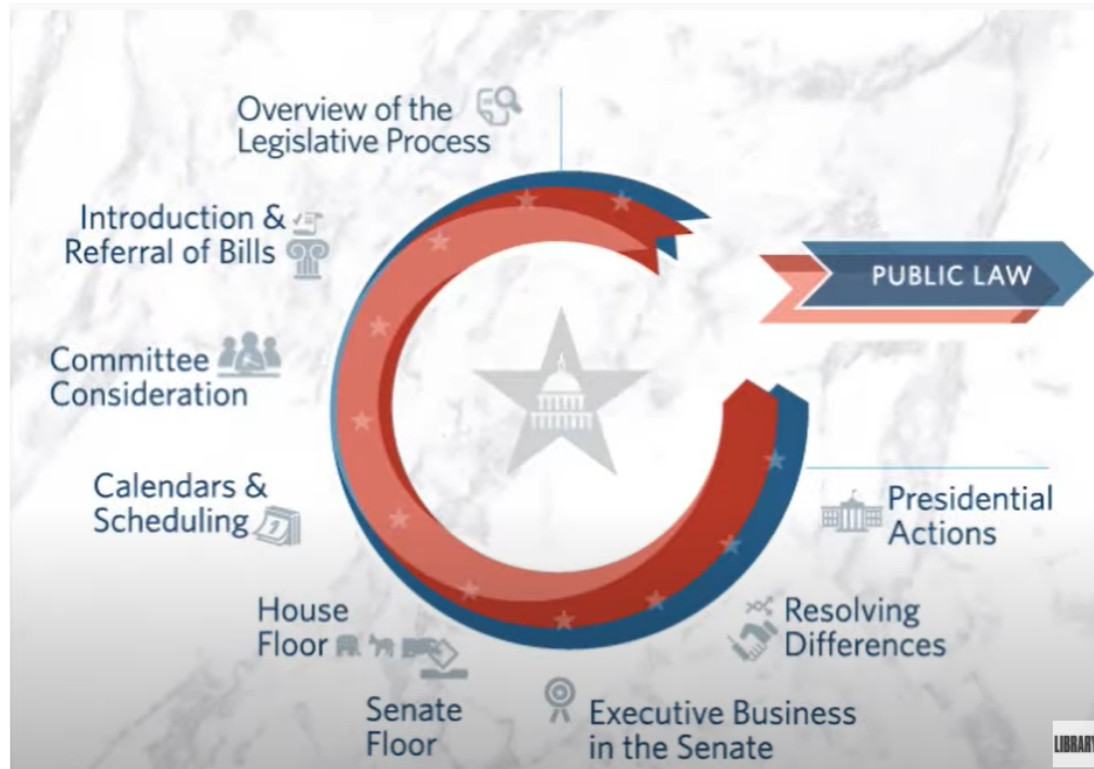


Video: The Legislative Process: Overview

Watch the video “[The Legislative Process: Overview](#)” on the next slide before breaking into small groups;

- In your small group:
 - identify who the Federal Representatives and Senators are for your state, your region of the state,
 - determine their committee assignments, and
 - find out if any of them are in committee leadership roles.
- Use the following website to access this information:
[U.S. Government](#).

Video: Overview of the Legislative Process



<https://youtu.be/E1CIWwu6KdQ>



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Phases of the Public Policy Life Cycle



The life cycle is only a framework – not all policy is formed according to this linear model. However, all policy creation is incremental and builds upon prior developments and activities.



Ways to Engage in Advocacy

- Understand the [legislative process](#)
- Join professional associations
- [Stay informed](#) about issues
- [Vote](#) for federal, state, and local officials
- Know [your elected officials](#) and communicate with them
- Identify and use advocacy resources



Identifying an Issue and Identifying With Whom to Communicate

- Using the links below, identify an issue at the state or national level that is of concern to you:

[U.S. Department of Education Laws & Guidance](#)

- Discuss the importance of the issue to EI/ECSE
- Using the links below, identify the policy makers with whom you will communicate about the issue:

[CEC Legislative Action Center](#)

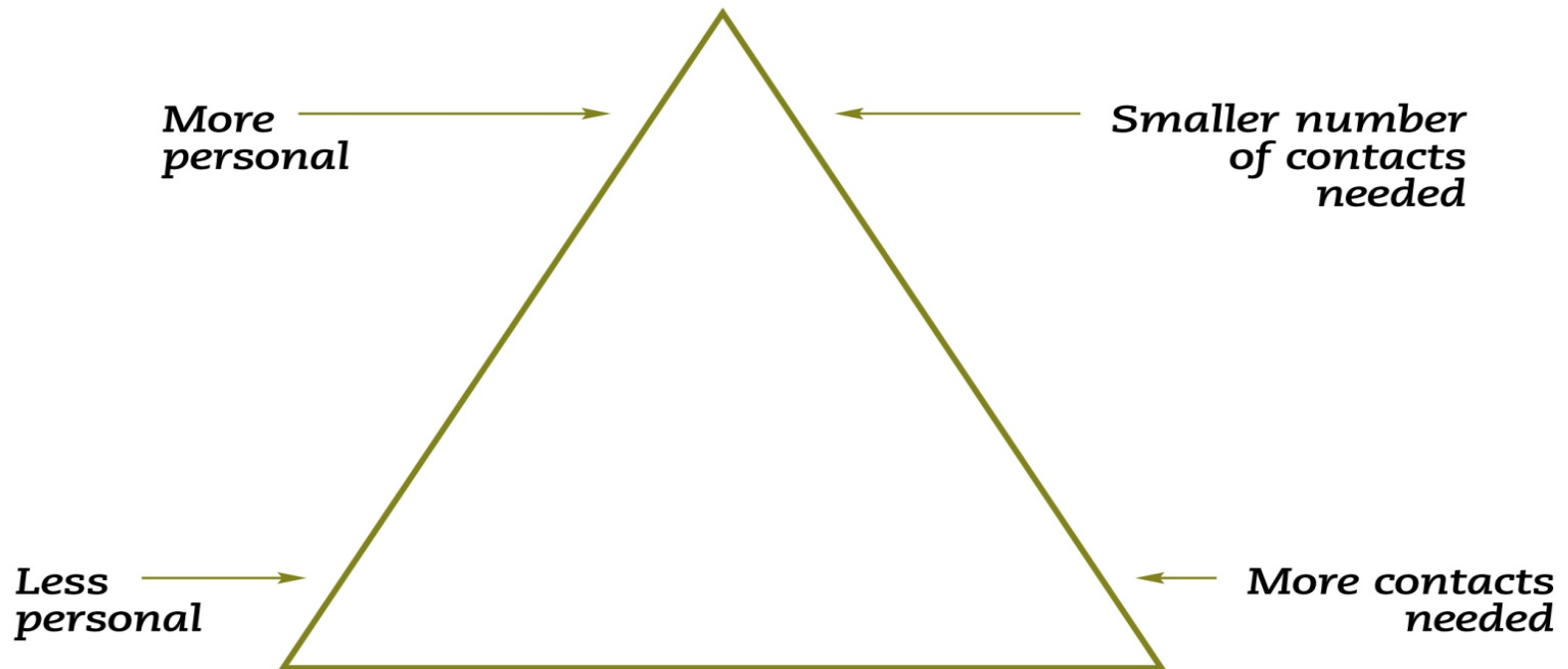
[Government Agencies and Elected Officials](#)



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The Contact Pyramid



American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). (n.d.). *Advocacy Training Module 3: Working with Decision-Makers*. AAP.



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Ways to Communicate

- Phone calls
- Writing letters
- Sending emails
- Meetings

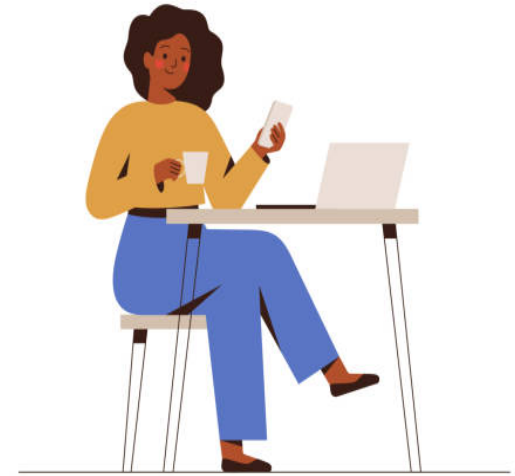


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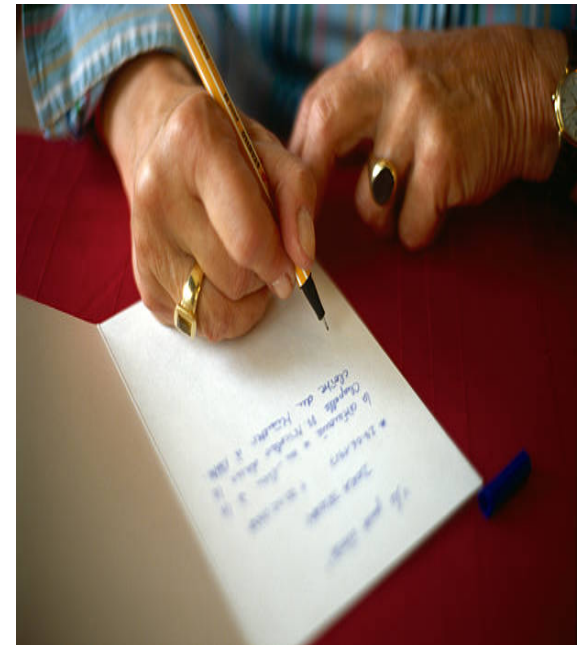
Phone Calls

- Plan before making the call
- Identify the key point(s) of your message
- Make the call
- Prepare to talk to a staff person or leave a message



Writing Letters

- Identify who you are
- Personalize the letter
- Emphasize a local connection
- Keep it brief



Advocacy Letter for Legislation: What to Include

- Salutation – Dear Senator/Representative_____
- Opening paragraph – subject of letter, bill number/
name, information about the writer
- Body of letter
 - Simple, factual explanation of issue
 - Local example of implications
 - Support or opposition of the bill
 - Offer to provide more information
 - Reply requested

Sample Advocacy Letters

Open the two URL links below:

- Read the form letter on the CEC website
- Read 1-2 of the advocacy letters on the DEC website
- Revise the message body of the form letter and submit based on review of the sample letters and “what to include” tips on the previous slide

CEC Legislative Action Center – [form letters](#)

DEC Policy and Advocacy – [sample advocacy letters](#)



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Sending Emails

- Identify yourself in the subject line
- Personalize the content
- Follow-up by phone, letter, or meeting



Scheduled Meetings

- Before the meeting – plan
- During the meeting – allow for discussion, share information visually
- After the meeting – follow-up



Impromptu Meetings: Elevator Pitch



- Brief summary of an issue/problem delivered in 30 seconds to 2 minutes
- Planned “speech” for impromptu delivery
- Goal – to pique the interest of the listener and lead to a follow-up meeting

Elevator Pitch

- Prepare with your group a two-minute elevator pitch to the President of the U.S. asking for full funding of IDEA.
- Have someone role-play the President and someone from each group delivers the elevator pitch.

Advocating for Evidence-Based Practices



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Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs): Definition (DEC, 2014)

“...the most effective ways to improve the learning outcomes and promote the development of young children, birth through five years, who have or are at-risk for developmental delays or disabilities.”based on the best empirical evidence as well as the wisdom and experience of the field.” (p.2).

*Note: DEC uses the term *recommended practices*.*

Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs): Definition (ECTA)

“...the process that pulls together the best available research, knowledge from professional experts, and data and input from children and their caregivers, to identify and provide services, evaluated and proven to achieve positive outcomes for children and families.”



Build Coalitions



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References and Resources

- [Alliance for Justice](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). (n.d.). [Advocacy training modules](#). AAP.
- [Council for Exceptional Children](#) (CEC). (n.d.). [Policy and advocacy](#). CEC.
- [Congress.gov](#)
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC). (n.d.). [Policy and advocacy](#). CEC.



References and Resources

- Division for Early Childhood (DEC). 2014. *DEC [recommended practices](#)*. DEC.
- Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC). (n.d.). *Curriculum modules: Professional Standards, [Standard 7 Professionalism and Ethical Practice](#)*. ECPC.
- Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA). (n.d.). *[Evidence-based practice](#)*. ECTA.



References and Resources

- Stegenga, S. M., Skubel, A., Corr, C., & Nagro, S. (2020). Your voice matters: A Practitioner's Guide for Engaging in Policy Through Advocacy. *Young Exceptional Children*. doi:[10.1177/1096250620950311](https://doi.org/10.1177/1096250620950311)
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Disclaimer

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