

MA Strongstart ECSO

The Lastinger Center proposes the implementation of a systems-focused professional development model that incorporates the evidence-based Lastinger Leadership Framework to build leadership and instructional capacity with center-based program leaders in order to effect significant improvements in program quality and child outcomes. This model aligns with the mission of the Massachusetts Early Education and Care's StrongStart Initiative to build an integrated system that effectively supports early learning programs and providers so that they can provide the highest quality of learning and care to children across the state through a strategic combination of high-impact in-person and online trainings, courses, resources, and individualized supports all designed to improve their knowledge base and teaching practice around high-impact areas of focus, including curriculum selection and implementation, formative assessment to improve instruction, and engaging families.

The model proposed for the Massachusetts StrongStart Early Childhood Support Organizations has been developed from data collected through various professional development programs and initiatives delivered to thousands of early childhood professionals across multiple states. The highest outcome-yielding components of these initiatives have been combined into one, multi-system level model to provide a comprehensive yet individualized professional learning experience to all stakeholders within the early learning provider environment.

The model includes two years of intensive, systematic engagement with program leaders, coaches, and teachers focused on building instructional leadership capacity and implementing key strategies and approaches that are high-impact levers for change, particularly around curriculum implementation and utilizing assessment to inform practice. Upon completion of the first two years of professional development, participants will engage in on-going peer and coaching support to sustain the interventions and improvements made within their programs.