



Photo courtesy of Charles N. Fortes Elementary School in Providence, R.I.



Save The Date

June 30: Last day to take the [Exceed communication survey](#)

July 6: Application deadline for CCRI [Early Childhood Education & Training Program](#) for fall 2015

July 8: ECEDS [registration session](#), 6:00 -7:45 p.m., Olneyville Library, Providence

July 10: Wave 3 facility grant [application deadline](#)

Exceed's Early Learning Program Search

The Early Learning Program Search is available on the Exceed website. Exceed has been trying to connect with program administrators and family child care owners who have not registered on the Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS). Programs will need to register to be able to update their program profile (the information that is available on the Exceed website). If you need help, please [Erica Mandeville](#) at the Rhode Island Department of Education at 222-8164 or RSVP for a registration session on [Facebook](#).

Take the Exceed communication survey today!



We are getting ready to revise our communication plan and will use the survey results to inform the early childhood community. Please take a few minutes to [fill out our short survey](#). Our survey also provides you with the opportunity to share your ideas that may help us improve our overall communications. Your opinion matters to us and we look forward to hearing from you! This survey will close at midnight on Tuesday, June 30.

WAVE 3 of Early Learning Facilities Funding is Now Available



\$1 million of Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant funding is now available for additional waves of Early Learning Facilities grants. Applications are currently being accepted for the third wave of grant funding for playground planning and DCYF variance related issues. Visit the LISC RICCELFF website for additional information.

Spotlight from the Institute for Teaching & Learning

This month Exceed is thrilled to share Jen Sollitto's story. Jen is currently a student enrolled in the Institute for Teaching and Learning at Rhode Island College, and is focusing her studies on students in pre-kindergarten through second grade. After completing this program, she will have a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Learning. Though Jen started college directly out of high school, she left to raise her family. Years later, she was given the opportunity to attend this program at RIC, funded through a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are awarded to educators, administrators, and home child-care providers statewide who are pursuing coursework in the field of early childhood education or working to earn degrees from the Community College of Rhode Island or from Rhode Island College. Jen shared that this experience has changed her life. She always knew that she was interested in education, but this confirmed to her that she was on the right path. Jen currently works at A Child's View in North Providence, but her ultimate goal is to be a public school teacher. She found the Praxis test workshops, made available through the Institute for Teaching and Learning, along with the connections and relationships that she has formed with the other educators in her cohort have been the most invaluable resources. Jen also shared that she feels truly fortunate to have been given this opportunity, and urges anyone given the opportunity to receive a college education to take it.



The preceding article was written by Amanda Siegel, Intern, R.I. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

BrightStars Participation!

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Education (RIDE) continue to reach out to early learning and education providers to encourage participation in BrightStars. If you have any questions about your participation, do not hesitate to directly connect with BrightStars at 739-6100.

The chart below represents the total number of programs enrolled in BrightStars on May 31, 2015. The total number of early learning and education programs operating as of January 1, 2015 is 916; that represents 552 family child care providers, 311 centers, and 53 public schools.



BrightStars Rated Programs

	2015 BrightStars Enrollment Goal	ACTUAL (as of May 31, 2015)
1 Star	458	511
2 Star	183	129
3 Star	138	45
4 Star	73	48
5 Star	64	16
TOTAL	916	749
% OF GOAL	100%	81.8%



Interested in learning more about the work of the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant from May 2015? A copy of the May report to the Early Learning Council is [available here](#).