



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

DATE: January 5, 2011

COMMITTEE MAKING RECOMMENDATION: PDAC Steering Committee

RECOMMENDATION: The Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC) Steering Committee recommends that the early childhood age range for Professional Educator licensure in Illinois be birth – 3rd grade. PDAC respectfully requests that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) consider this recommendation in making changes to professional educator licensure and corresponding age ranges.

RATIONALE: Early childhood encompasses a continuum of learning from birth through age 8 and teachers must have the skills, knowledge and dispositions to effectively teach early childhood in a range of settings. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Position Statement on Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation Programs (2009), it is essential that early childhood teachers have knowledge of the precursors to children’s current development and learning and the trajectory they will follow in later years in order to develop effective learning opportunities within their professional capacity. Illinois should align with national policies including those of NAEYC and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in creating age ranges for professional educator licensure.

Co-Chair Signatures:

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DISPOSITION:
PDAC Steering Committee

Approved: X **Date:** 1/5/2012

Disapproved: **Date:**

