

# EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE: RACE TO THE TOP GRANT

*Vermont's Path to Realize the Promise of Every Child*



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2018**  
**House Human Services & House Education Committees**

**Karin Edwards** - Director, PreK – Grade 8 Integrated Support for Learning, AOE

**Breena Holmes** - Director, Maternal and Child Health, VDH, AHS

**Reeva Murphy** - Deputy Commissioner, Child Development Division, DCF, AHS

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**Sarah Squirrell** - Executive Director, Building Bright Futures

**Julie Cadwallader Staub** - Director, Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Grant,  
Child Development Division, DCF, AHS

# EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE GRANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM JANUARY 2014 – DECEMBER 2017

- Four focus categories
  - Improve Quality and Access
  - Invest in the Early Childhood Workforce
  - Empower Communities
  - Improve Accountability: How Do We Know We Made a Difference?



## Improve Quality And Access



- Improved and implemented standards for Specialized Child Care providers
- Updated Vermont Early Learning Standards, birth – grade 3, including web-based materials and statewide training
- Expanded Strengthening Families framework
- Increased participation in STARS and in higher tiers of STARS specifically

## Improve Quality And Access



- Established Help Me Grow
- Expanded Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Developed PreK Monitoring System design
- Trained in evidence based home visiting models



# Invest in the Early Childhood Workforce

- Designed the Vermont Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System
- Enabled hundreds of early childhood practitioners to take college level courses
- Surveyed the early childhood workforce



# Empower Communities



- Strengthened Building Bright Futures as backbone for early childhood
- 75 early childhood leaders graduated from Early Childhood Leadership Institute
- Promise Communities invested in local leadership, strategies and activities to improve school readiness

## Improve Accountability in Early Childhood

- Building Bright Futures designed and implemented Vermont Insights, Vermont's early childhood data hub.
- Design of PreNatal – Grade 12 Data Governance program underway.
- Evaluated and validated STARS; revisions underway based on findings
- Kindergarten Readiness Survey evaluated, revised, piloted, and implemented as the new Ready for Kindergarten Survey (R4K!S)





## These System-wide Improvements Are In Place:



- ✓ *Improved Standards for Specialized Child Care*
- ✓ *Revised and updated Vermont's Early Learning Standards*
- ✓ *Expanded Strengthening Families framework*
- ✓ *Increased number of programs participated in STARS, and at higher levels of STARS*
- ✓ *Established Help Me Grow*
- ✓ *Expanded Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support*
- ✓ *Expanded evidence-based home visiting models*
- ✓ *Designed Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System*
- ✓ *Increased education and training levels of early childhood practitioners*
- ✓ *Surveyed Early Childhood Workforce*
- ✓ *Strengthened Building Bright Futures*
- ✓ *Supported local leadership strategies through Promise Communities*
- ✓ *Revised and updated Kindergarten Readiness Survey (R4K!S)*
- ✓ *Evaluated and validated STARS*

# Questions and Discussion

