

# Welcome to the SDA 3 RAC Meeting!



# Purpose

SPARK needs you, your time, and your voice.

The purpose of the Regional Advisory Council is to strategically aid and advise SPARK Learning Lab about our services, so we can better support those who support Hoosier children and families.

We know your time is precious and thank you for joining us tonight.



# These Hoosiers are worth it...



# Meeting Overview

- Review Old Business
- New Business
  - Build Learn Grow/ARP Stabilization Grants
  - Indiana Early Learning Foundations Update
  - Indiana Learning Path Course Collections
  - PTQ Organizational Incentives
  - Indiana Early Learning Care System Partner Map
- Think Tank
- Public Comment
- Agreements and Action Items
- RAC Updates from around Indiana
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- Adjournment

*\*Public comment will be heard after each agenda item*

# RAC Member Introductions

- Name
- Organization name and role



## Review Old Business

- At the beginning of each meeting, the Council reviews action items and recommendations from the previous meeting and discusses progress made
- View meeting minutes for each SDA on the SPARK website  
<http://indianaspark.com/regional-advisory-councils/>

# Old Business – RAC Ambassador Program

RAC Members asked that an administrator invite another participant through ILEAD for the application

This is not technically possible.

# Old Business – ECE Workforce Development

RAC Members requested documentation and resources to support grant tracking and audits.

This quarter SPARK will introduce the SPARK Build, Learn, Grow Stabilization Grant Spending guide which discusses the documenting and categorizing expenses

# Old Business – Build Learn Grow

RAC Members asked SPARK to request OECOSL not make the cohorts required grant technical support

OECOSL will continue to determine what TA is required for those programs that have received the grant.

# Old Business – Build Learn Grow

RAC Members asked SPARK to consider adding the length of operation and field experience to the grant cohort.

In the next round of cohorts, tentatively beginning February 2022, a program's length of operation and administrator's previous experience and competency in key areas is being taken into consideration when determining who should attend.

# Old Business – Mental Health Support/ SPARK Resources

RAC Members requested that support groups be offered in the evening or weekend for individuals to attend outside of work hours

The next round of Provider Support Groups began January 21, 2022. Participants were asked for their preferred meeting times which included evening and weekend options.

# Old Business—Mental Health Support/SPARK Resources

RAC members requested resources for program leaders to support and care for their staff during difficult times

Based on this feedback, SPARK is hiring a Senior Mental Health & Wellness Specialist whose primary responsibilities include ensuring that ISAT includes a comprehensive set of mental health and best practices and to support these with training and resources.

# Old Business – PTQ

RAC Members requested toolkits and resources to prepare staff and operations for PTQ rating visit

To support programs in understanding the tools and resources available to them throughout their PTQ journey, SPARK has created a resource called “Paths to QUALITY Resources from SPARK Learning Lab”; this is AVAILABLE NOW in My Spark Learning Lab.

# Old Business – PTQ

RAC members requested resources for leaders to best engage and get staff on board for the PTQ process

SPARK Learning Lab has made available for the first time ever an on-demand version of the Paths of QUALITY Introduction Session. This is the first step in educating program staff on the PTQ process and can be viewed and completed 24/7 on Indiana Learning Paths.

# Old Business

Questions?





**New Business**

# OECOSL PROVIDER RECOGNITION

# SDA3: Provider Recognition

## Nominee Name

**Mallory Williams**

**Nicole Mahern**

**Sarah Cook**

**Stacey Long**

**Terece Williams**

**Michael Robinson**

## Program Name

**The Goddard School Westfield**

**Giving Tree Early Learning**

**Giving Tree Early Learning**

**The Goddard School**

**Precious Moments Early Childhood Education**

**Day Early Learning State Government Center**



# Provider Recognition

- OECOSL just closed round two for provider recognition and received over 200 hundred nominations!
- We encourage your teams to think of providers that you have worked with that stand out for providing quality care and leadership to families and their communities.
- Stay informed for the next nomination cycle later this year!
- LINK: [Provider Recognition Nomination Form](#)

# GRANT STABILIZATION UPDATES + RESOURCES

# BLG Grant Updates

→ Timeline for Grant Round 2

◆ January 17th, 2022 - April 15, 2022

→ Application Criteria Updates



# Build Learn Grow Events

- SPARK is providing educational events with local partners throughout the state.
  - ◆ Each virtual event will provide access to professional experts within the business fields to assist providers in making an informed business decisions.
- SDA 3 Event Schedule:
  - ◆ Indianapolis: January 27, 2022 (Completed)
  - ◆ Virtual Events Statewide Schedule
    - <https://indianaspark.com/build-learn-grow-community-events/>

# INTENSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT

- SPARK will be offering Live Resources to support grant recipients that are seeking Round 2 funding.
- Over the next month, SPARK is releasing new resources (EN & SP), video guides (EN & SP), and offering Live Resources on the following:
  - How to use and report Family First Coronavirus Response Leave
  - Grant Spending and Documenting Expenses
  - How to use the Employee Retention Tax Credit

# INTENSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Business Cohorts
  - Beginning in early February and last for 3 months
  - Target Audiences
    - Programs that have not accepted funding from OECOSL previously,
    - Areas with limited high quality programming, and
    - Areas with highest closure rates
- Competencies
  - Learn the value of a budget and how to use it for decision making throughout the year.
  - Understand how to project business costs, generate additional income and plan strategically for future goals.
  - Identify how to strengthen the fiscal health of their child care business.
  - Strengthen program leaders business acumen and use of tools to create a sustainable business

# Grant Resource Information

→ Key Resource Links:

◆ [stabilization.buildlearngrow.org](https://stabilization.buildlearngrow.org)

→ SPARK Grant Support:

◆ Contact Information

- Help Desk 1-800-299-1627
- Live Chat is available on indianaspark.com and My SPARK Learning Lab
- Email [Help@indianaspark.com](mailto:Help@indianaspark.com)

# Build Learn Grow

- Do RAC Members have any additional questions or comments regarding the initiatives around the Build, Learn, Grow stabilization grants?
- Do public attendees have any additional questions or comments regarding the initiatives around the Build, Learn, Grow stabilizations grants?

# EARLY LEARNING FOUNDATIONS UPDATE

# Early Foundations

## → Timeline for updates

- ◆ Undergoing revision since July 2020
- ◆ The Governor announced the formation of the Office of Kindergarten Readiness in IDOE
- ◆ Foundations release delayed until this is complete

# Discussion Questions

- How is the best way for you to learn the foundations trainings?
- What supplemental trainings, resources, or supports items could SPARK provide in helping with implementation of foundation trainings?

# INDIANA LEARNING PATHS UPDATES

## COURSE COLLECTION

Welcome to the  
Early Learning  
Indiana Catalog

Course Collections >



SPARK! Colección de  
Cursos para la



SPARK! Educator  
Onboarding Course



SPARK! Educator  
Onboarding Course

**STEP 1: Login  
into ILEAD  
Account**

**STEP 2: Start  
Your Indiana  
Learning Path**

**STEP 3: Course  
Collection**

# COURSE COLLECTION

- Educator Onboarding Part 1: Mandatory
- Colección de Cursos para la Inducción de Educadores Parte 1: Cursos Obligatorios/ (Educator Onboarding Part 1 Spanish)
- Educator Onboarding Part 2: Effective Teaching & Assessment
- Educator Onboarding Part 3: Connecting with Children and Families
- Leadership Onboarding Part 1: Quality Programs & Professionalism
- Leadership Onboarding Part 2: The Business Side of Early Childhood Education

# COURSE COLLECTION

A few FAQs:

- When someone registers in ILP for the Course Collection, they are automatically registered for all of the courses found in that Part.
- There is no certificate for a Course Collection as a whole. People completing each course will still get their certificate for that course, just as they always have.
- If you click into a Course Collection you can see what courses that collection entails.

PTQ  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
INCENTIVES

# PTQ Organizational Incentives

- RAC DISCUSSION
  - Lead by RAC Leadership
- LINK: [PTQ Program Incentives](#)

Information about novel coronavirus (COVID-19)  
Get the latest information about coronavirus and the Indiana Department of Health preparations here - [coronavirus.in.gov](#)

**IN.gov** Family and Social Services Administration DFR Benefits Information Find child care SNAP (Food Assistance) Health Coverage

Online Services ▾ FAQs ▾ Find an Agency Gov. Eric J. Holcomb

FSSA Home

Paths to QUALITY Home

About Us ▾

Info for Families ▾

Info for Programs ▲

Overview

**Program Incentives**

Resource Guide

Toolkit

Enrollment Information

Paths to QUALITY™ Standards ▾

[PATHS TO QUALITY](#) / [INFO FOR PROGRAMS](#) / [PROGRAM INCENTIVES](#)

## Program Incentives

**What are the benefits of participating in Paths to QUALITY™?**

- All programs who enroll in the Paths to QUALITY™ system will receive a participation incentive. Programs that choose self-guided study will receive the participation incentive following their self-guided study start-up session.
- Programs that successfully complete Levels 2 and 3 are eligible for one-time non-cash recognition awards upon attainment of each level.
- Programs who achieve Level 3 and desire to move on to Level 4, which includes becoming accredited by an approved national accrediting body, will be eligible for financial support and technical assistance to help with the costs associated with national accreditation. The amount of financial support is based on need and the number of children enrolled in a program. Support is available to assist with the accrediting process, the validation/endorsement phase, and/or equipment needed to meet the accreditation criteria.
- After completing the standards for Level 4, programs are eligible for special one time cash recognition award to recognize their achievement of the highest level of quality.

SYSTEM PARTNERS

# WHO TO CALL?

→ Review Indiana Early Care & Learning System Partner Map

→ [Find Partner Map: My SPARK Learning Lab](#)

Indiana Early Care & Learning System  
Partner Map

						
Contact Information	1-800-299-1627 <a href="http://www.indianaspark.com">www.indianaspark.com</a> <a href="mailto:PTQ@indianaspark.com">PTQ@indianaspark.com</a>	Locate your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency by visiting <a href="#">Brighter Futures</a>	1-800-299-1627 <a href="http://leadhelp.org">leadhelp.org</a> <a href="http://BrighterFuturesIndiana.org">BrighterFuturesIndiana.org</a>	1-855-484-2392 <a href="http://www.inaeyc.org">www.inaeyc.org</a>	1-317-822-8211 <a href="http://www.indianaafterschool.org">www.indianaafterschool.org</a>	1-877-511-1144 <a href="#">Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning</a> <a href="mailto:oeoslproviderinquiry@fssa.in.gov">oeoslproviderinquiry@fssa.in.gov</a>
Description	Spark Learning Lab is the statewide technical assistance provider. Spark offers coaching, training opportunities, Indiana Self-Assessment Tool (I-SAT) support and a multitude of technical assistance opportunities for early childhood education programs. In addition, Spark manages Paths to QUALITY™ (levels 1 – 4). My SPARK Learning Lab serves as the centralized access point for all resources and Indiana Learning Paths houses all of the training that is accessible to providers throughout the state.	Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) are the experts in connecting families, communities and providers to the resources they need in order to ensure that they have access to high quality early experiences that meet their needs. They also provide child care referrals, parenting support and engagement activities for families. They work with their local communities to identify needs and work to develop plans to address those needs. The local CCR&R agencies also work with potential providers to become licensed.	Early Learning Indiana (ELI) is on a mission to ensure every child is empowered with essential skills to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. They operate high-quality early learning centers, help families find quality child care, partner with teachers and providers to improve program quality and advocate for greater access to early educational opportunities for all Hoosier families. Through their partnerships, they have also created the Brighter Futures Indiana website.	Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IN AEYC) offers information on accreditation, formal/non-formal CDA, On My Way Pre-K, T.E.A.C.H. grant, and the Christine Fisher ECE Grant. They also have Workforce Coordinators who engage with community stakeholders to strengthen the ECE workforce throughout Indiana.	Indiana Afterschool Network (IAN) works to connect afterschool and summer programs with the support they need to create positive youth outcomes.	The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECSL) oversees early child care, education and out-of-school-time programs. They manage the system partners in order to ensure that every Indiana community will have a strong network of Early Care and Education and Out-of-School Time programs that support Indiana Programs will be high quality, affordable, and accessible to enable families to work effectively to obtain economic self-sufficiency. Children will thrive in programs that meet their developmental and educational needs and make them feel welcome, encouraged, and supported. Professionals teaching and caring for children will have the resources, including training and education, needed to operate and maintain high quality programs.
Paths to QUALITY™	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Introduction session</li><li>★ Enrollment</li><li>★ Level maintenance-technical assistance</li><li>★ Level advancement -technical assistance</li><li>★ Rating requests</li><li>★ Insufficiency support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Inform new programs about Paths to QUALITY™ through Orientation, cohorts, intakes, and updates. Referrals to state partners to receive support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Materials: signs, decals, certificates, letters, and non-cash incentives</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Cash awards for Level 3 advancement, Level 4 advancement, and Level 4 maintaining</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Contracts with TCC to complete Paths to QUALITY™ ratings</li><li>★ Inactive Voluntary Status (IVS) processing</li><li>★ Rating appeals</li><li>★ Policy Committee</li><li>★ Oversight Committee</li></ul>

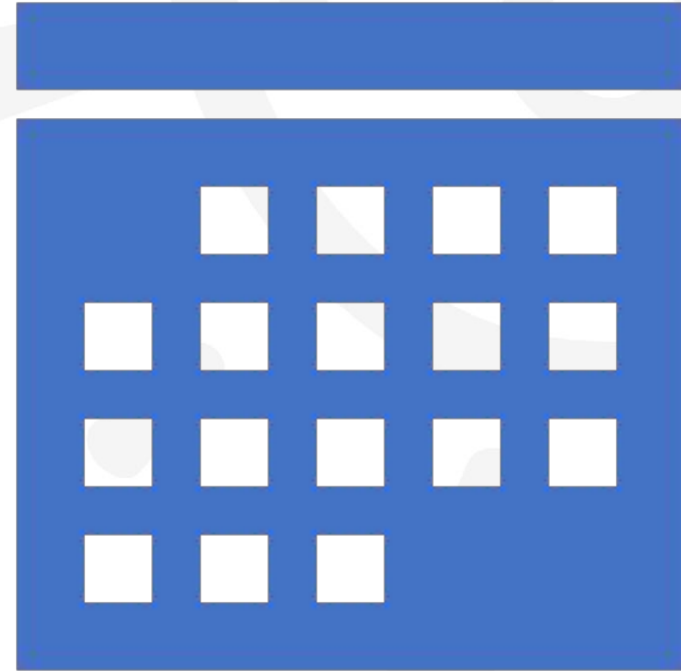
# Think Tank



# FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

# SDA 3 Meeting Schedule

- RAC meeting dates:
  - April 13th, 2022
  - September 21, 2022
- Location
  - Determine In-person/ Hybrid option
  - Establish a meeting location



# Public Comment

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- We want to hear from you!
- What questions/comments do you have for SPARK and the Council?



# Agreements

Based on what has been presented, RAC discussion, and public comment, what suggestions and perspectives need to be captured for SPARK Learning Lab or partners to consider?

Build Learn Grow/ARP Stabilization Grants

Indiana Early Learning Foundations Update

Required Training: Indiana Learning Training for New Teacher & Leadership Course Collections

PTQ Organizational Incentives

Indiana Early Learning Care partner map

# Agenda Items for Next Meeting



What topics and/or SPARK supports would the Council like to discuss in April?

# Stay Connected with SPARK

- Sign up for SPARK newsletter: <http://indianaspark.com/>
- SPARK Group Features
- Follow SPARK on social media!
  - [Facebook](#)
  - [Twitter](#)
  - [Instagram](#)
- Email [RAC@indianaspark.com](mailto:RAC@indianaspark.com) with questions



**Let's Spark a Conversation!**