



Trust for Learning

Ideal learning made real for all.

April 23, 2018

Katherine Kempe
National Association for the Education of Young Children
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Power to the Profession Decision Cycles 3, 4, and 5 Draft

Dear Ms. Kempe:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Power to the Profession Decision Cycles 3, 4, and 5. On behalf of Trust for Learning (the Trust) and the early learning providers that we support, I applaud NAEYC's efforts to help establish a unifying framework of qualifications, knowledge, and skills, and career pathways for the ECE field.

As you know, the Trust focuses on making highly personalized, curriculum-rich, emotionally and intellectually engaging early childhood education (ECE), or "Ideal Learning," real for every child, regardless of background. The Trust sponsors the Ideal Learning Roundtable to amplify the voice of providers that embrace a shared set of principles, and ensure that what works best for children and families is represented in policy and practice. Our partners, including representatives of Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, Tools of the Mind, Bank Street, Friends Center for Children and others, provide the highest quality education to develop the full range of skills necessary for children's success in school and in life.

The Trust believes it is imperative that all early educator preparation programs require rigorous training that is aligned with professional competencies for what educators should know and be able to do. As such, we are concerned that Decision Cycle 5 suggests that training in certain Ideal Learning models, such as Montessori and Waldorf, would be considered a "specialization" that would first require generalist education training. In order to ensure that educator preparation programs produce excellent educators, we believe it is important to embrace [Ideal Learning principles](#) and pedagogy within the general framework, rather than create a professional 'niche' that requires a separate designation.

As [research](#) shows, Ideal Learning approaches provide the high-quality education that parents seek for their children, but currently, not all families have access to these programs. A unifying framework that recognizes training, preparation, and career pathways for educators of these approaches would enable more science-based, developmentally appropriate instruction in the classroom and enable more children to have access to high-quality Ideal Learning models.

We believe that NAEYC's Power to the Profession is a crucial step in ensuring that all children are learning from high-quality educators, and appreciate your efforts to engage the field on these important issues. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views. We look forward to continued partnership in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Miller
Executive Director