

**Professional Development Advisory Council
Workforce Development and Pathways Committee Meeting
August 22, 2023
Minutes**

Christi Chadwick	Julie Lindstrom	Marie Donovan
Cindy Berrey	Kate Connor*	Marsha Hawley*
Danen Busch	Larissa Mulholland	Mercedes Mondragon
Gail Nelson	Lauri Morrison Frichtl	Pam Womack
Joni Scritchlow	Lynn Burgett	Sara Mixer
		Sinthu Ramalingam
		*guest

Welcome and Review of Minutes – Christi Chadwick and Lauri Morrison Frichtl

- May 1, 2023
 - Pam Womack moved to approve the minutes.
 - Larissa Mulholland seconded the motion.
 - Minutes were approved.

Prior Learning Assessment Recommendation

(see attachment A existing recommendation)
(see attachment B revised recommendation)

- Kate Connor and Marsha Hawley, co-chairs of the PDAC Higher Education Committee, attended the meeting to join in the discussion regarding the PLA recommendation.
- The February 28, 2023 PLA recommendation was presented to the PDAC Steering Committee in May. The recommendation was sent back to the WDP committee for revising. Questions or clarification included:
 - Was the recommendation endorsing a specific form of PLA? Need clarifying language to show that we are not recommending a specific form of PLA.
 - The importance of higher education being connected within the recommendation.
 - Include additional background on the Preschool Development Grant B-5 prior learning assessment work in 2022/2023.
- The WDP Committee reviewed the background of drafting the recommendation.
 - Overview of recent CAEL research. Prior learning assessment gives recognition to individual (adult learners) skill sets and knowledge. When those skill sets line up with specific objectives and competencies, they can be awarded college credit. PLA can be a catalyst for individuals to move forward in their education and careers.
 - Currently, Illinois higher education institutions have diverse usage and policies regarding PLA. Importance of the transferability of PLA between institutions.
 - The importance of equity strategies for the ECE workforce and how PLA fits into these efforts.
- Kate shared background on transferring PLA among higher education institutions and the rules and requirements that higher education institutions have regarding prior learning.

Revision of the Recommendation

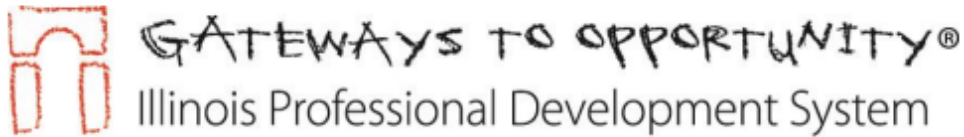
- Remove references to any specific type or form of assessment.
- Emphasize the importance of systemized approaches to PLA.
- Keep options open for the ECE workforce.
- Move the history of the recent PLA work to background information on the recommendation document.

Follow Up

- Using the five-finger voting system the committee approved the revised recommendation (see attachment B), with the note that the background section will be changed to reflect proper grammar and context.
- This recommendation will be presented at the next PDAC Steering.

Adjourn





Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

DATE: February 28, 2023

COMMITTEE MAKING RECOMMENDATION: Workforce Development and Pathways

RECOMMENDATION: We support development of standardized forms of PLA for statewide use. Scaling up the statewide, standardized Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) system, developed using innovative technology (Mursion) should be a priority among our state agencies and higher education institutions to support Illinois' highly diverse incumbent workforce. Early childhood faculty at Illinois Higher Education Institutions created a series of PLA scenarios (based on workplace challenges) that were piloted at higher education institutions in fall 2022 and spring 2023 in both English and Spanish for learners. The PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee recommends that this standardized state system of PLA developed under the direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) via PDG-B5 funds be prioritized and expanded for implementation throughout Illinois higher education institutions to provide greater accessibility and a critical pathway for the ECE workforce.

RATIONALE: National researcher The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) found in their study that adult students who participate in Prior Learning Assessment/Credit for Prior Learning (PLA/CPL) are 17% more likely to complete a degree, compared to those without PLA/CPL and that adults' students save, on average, 9-14 months in earning a degree. PLA boosted completion rates for adult students of color, low-income adult students, and adult students across the academic performance spectrum.

DISPOSITION:
PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee
Approved: X Date: 2.28.23
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:
PDAC Steering Committee
Approved: Date
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:
PDAC
Approved: Date
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:
IDHS
Approved: Date
Disapproved: Date:





Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

DATE: February 28, 2023 revised August 22, 2023

COMMITTEE MAKING RECOMMENDATION: Workforce Development and Pathways

RECOMMENDATION: Systemized approaches to prior learning assessment should be prioritized as an avenue for workforce advancement to support Illinois' highly diverse incumbent workforce. The PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee recommends systemized approaches to PLA including the standardized state system of PLA developed under the direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) via PDG-B5 funds be prioritized and expanded for implementation throughout Illinois higher education institutions to provide greater accessibility and a critical pathway for the ECE workforce.

RATIONALE: National researcher The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) found in their study that adult students who participate in Prior Learning Assessment/Credit for Prior Learning (PLA/CPL) are 17% more likely to complete a degree, compared to those without PLA/CPL and that adults' students save, on average, 9-14 months in earning a degree. PLA boosted completion rates for adult students of color, low-income adult students, and adult students across the academic performance spectrum.

As background: Early childhood faculty at Illinois Higher Education Institutions created a series of PLA scenarios (based on workplace challenges) that were piloted for the ECE Level 2 at higher education institutions in 2022 and 2023 in both English and Spanish for learners.

DISPOSITION:
PDAC Workforce Development and Pathways Committee
Approved: X Date: 2.28.23 X revised 8.22.23
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:
PDAC Steering Committee
Approved: Date
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:
PDAC
Approved: Date:
Disapproved: Date:

DISPOSITION:
IDHS
Approved: Date:
Disapproved: Date:

