## Partnership for Early Education Research



Michael J. Strambler, Ph.D. The Consultation Center, Yale University School of Medicine Institute of Education Sciences PI Meeting, Washington, D.C. December 11, 2015



### What is PEER?

- Alliance among early childhood stakeholders in Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford, Connecticut
  - Classroom-level practitioners
  - Administrators
  - Child advocates
  - Policymakers
  - Researchers
- Funded in 2014 by IES



## Origin of PEER







## Alignment among Management Team Members

- Shared emphasis on **practitioner**-oriented research that can drive policy and practice
- C.E.S. and PEER serve the same three priority school districts
- Roles of core partners:
  - C.E.S. serves as convener/liaison
  - Yale contributes research expertise
  - EDC contributes collaborative research expertise



## PEER Organizational Structure

#### **Affiliate Members**

activities. Expert advisors will also review study reports prior to publication.

#### Larger EC Community

Additional School District Representatives

EC Centers

Home-based Childcare Providers

EC advocates

Community-based organizations

University Depts. of Education and EC preparation programs

Community funders

State Head Start

Expert Advisors Walter Gilliam Mike Lopez

#### **Participating Members**

Primary Responsibilities: Input on Alliance research agenda, facilitate data collection (primary & secondary) and provide data, participate in Alliance workshops (as appropriate). & assist with knowledge utilization/dissemination activities.

Community Teams Include (at a minimum): School Superintendent or designee, school district director of early childhood, school district data management representative, Head Start representative(s), and School Readiness representative(s).

#### Bridgeport, Norwalk, & Stamford Community

School District Superintendent or designee Director of Early

> Childhood Director of Data Management

Head Start

Teams

School Readiness

#### **Core Members**

Primary Responsibilities for Key Members: Develop Alliance research agenda, facilitate data collection (primary & secondary), review reports, & assist with knowledge utilization/dissemination activities.

**Alliance Management Team** 

Yale University

C.E.S.

EDC

#### **Key Members**

CSDE Reps

OEC Reps

Community Team Reps



#### **PEER Goals**





## PEER Capacity Building Progress

- Engaged with potential partners
- Held two agenda-setting workshops with stakeholders





### PEER Capacity Building Progress, cont.

- Developed communication structures (website and electronic newsletter)
- Applied for research grant involving PEER partners
- Developing data sharing agreements
- Planning to fund research agenda



#### PEER Website



## Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER)



The Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER) is a new research alliance that aims to engage stakeholders in rigorous, collaborative research that addresses questions of importance to the early childhood education community. By conducting research that can inform early childhood education practice in classrooms and decision-making at the local and state levels, the goal of PEER is to contribute to early childhood education in the region.

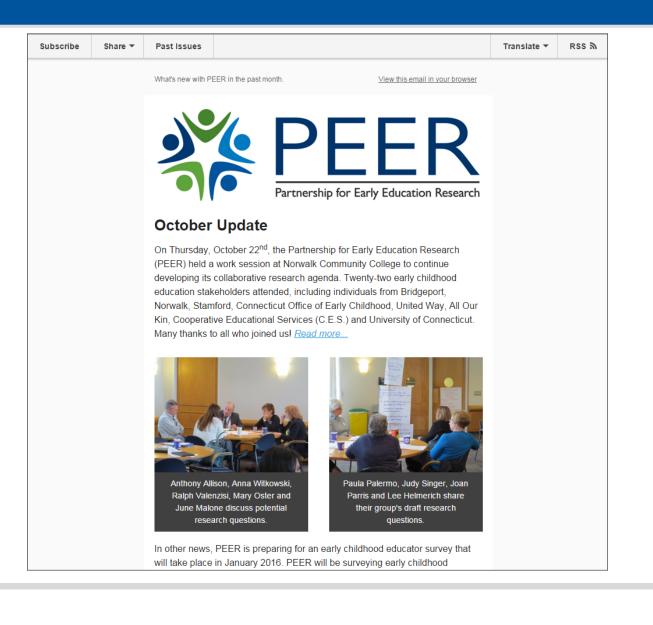
#### JOIN US

If your organization would like to join the Partnership for Early Education Research, please register your organization here.

Please contact PEER@yale.edu



#### **PEER Newsletter**





# Image: State of the state Kindergarten Entry & Transitions Teacher Training & Professional Development B



### What's Next for PEER

- Finalize research agenda
- Administer early childhood educator survey on assessment practices (January)
- Organize early childhood conference (Spring 2016)
- Secure funding for pursuing research agenda



#### Challenges

- Determining what data are available
- Determining best usage of data
- Finalizing data sharing agreements
- Student privacy concerns



#### Successes

- Buy-in from state and district agencies
- Two agenda setting workshops
- Engagement of key community stakeholders
- Creating connections with other efforts

   E.g. StriveTogether collective impact initiatives
- Invitations to present about PEER at local venues



## Why It's Important to Fund Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships

- Bridges the gap between researchers and practitioners
- Uses resources more efficiently
- Makes data more relevant and useable for guiding practice and improving outcomes for children
- Federal funding can be a powerful incentive for universities and practitioners



#### How IES can further support R-P Partnerships

- Longer funding period
- Progression of partnership funding
- Opportunities to share ideas about what's working



## Thank you!

## Learn more about PEER at http://peer.yale.edu

**Contact:** 

PEER@yale.edu

michael.strambler@yale.edu

