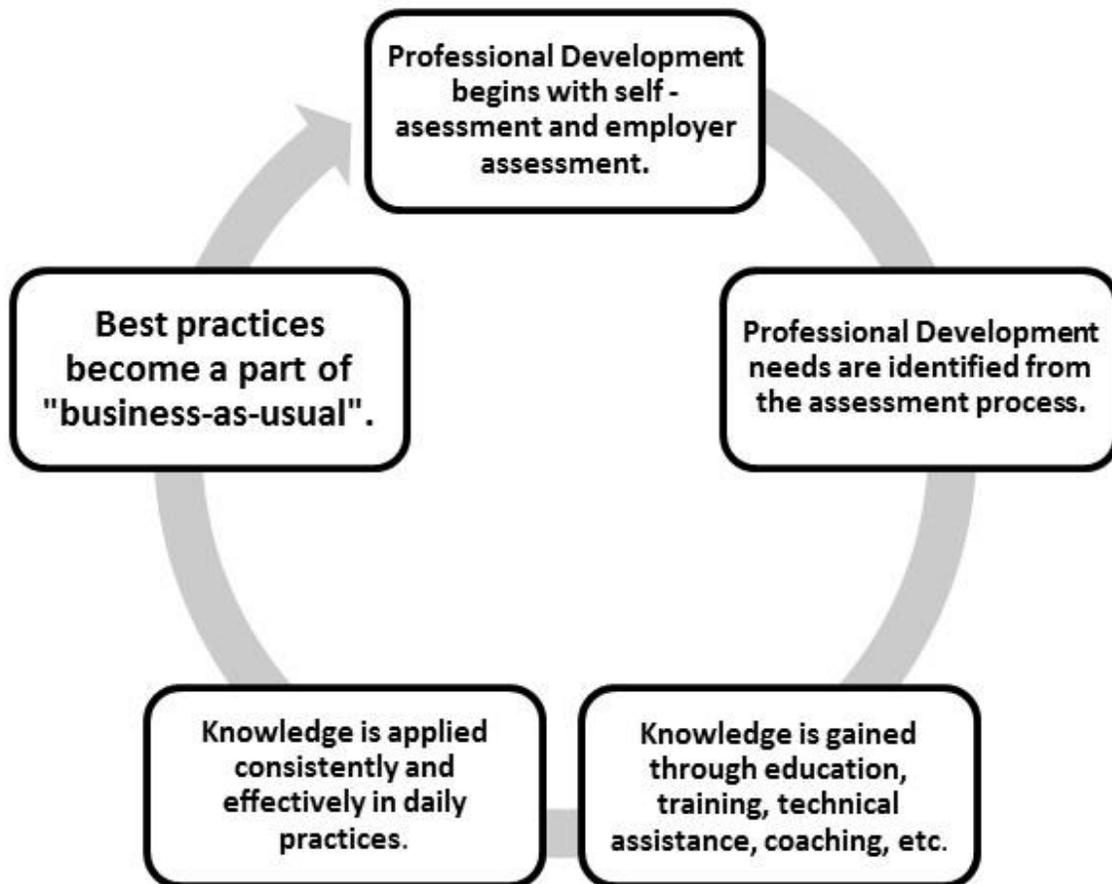# About the OPEN Initiative

Our Charge: Supporting professionals and advancing the field.

Are you a professional? A professional is someone who is committed to their field, curious and enthusiastic about expanding their experience, devoted to achieving a high level of competence, confident about their contributions, and dedicated to the advancement of their chosen field.

OPEN links professionals to the greater professional development system in Missouri.

OPEN collaborates with partners across the state of Missouri in implementing the professional development system for early childhood, school age, and youth development professionals. Workforce data collection is a key element in creating a strong professional development system, and OPEN administers the MOPD Registry as part of the overall system. Professional Development is an ongoing cycle throughout one's career in any given field.

Professional Development begins with self - asessment and employer assessment.

Professional Development needs are identified from the assessment process.

Knowledge is gained through education, training, technical assistance, coaching, etc.

Knowledge is applied consistently and effectively in daily practices.

Best practices become a part of "business-as-usual".

We Believe That...

Competent, reflective, and equitably compensated professionals provide high quality early childhood, school age and youth development education for Missouri's children and youth.

- Every child is precious and deserves the chance to develop to their full potential
- It is important to provide professionals with every asset we can to better help them serve children and youth
- We can impact the environment in which children and youth learn, think, grow, and feel secure and safe by tracking the professional development of those who provide care
- A better early childhood and youth development system in our state produces happier and healthier children, who later become contributing members of society
- Decisions based on data strengthen all systems that support children and youth

We Administer Projects That...

Support an integrated and seamless career development system for Missouri's early childhood, school age, and youth development professionals. All of OPEN's projects fall into three key areas: standards development, workforce data collection, and quality assurance. OPEN staff members work closely with other key early childhood, school age, and youth development partners across the state on the following projects:

- Standards Development

    -Core Competencies

- Workforces Data Collection:

    - Missouri Professional Development Registry

Why does OPEN exist?

- To share assets
- To value individuals
- To foster professional development
- To support confidence and competence
- To inspire the potential of human greatness
- To enhance the quality of care and education received by Missouri's children and youth

Our Commitment to Excellence...

OPEN is a proud member of the National Workforce Registry Alliance and has successfully completed the Partnership Eligibility Review process which recognizes a registry for its ability to contribute to a national dataset. OPEN is dedicated to the collection of high-quality data and adheres to the best practices of the National Workforce Registry Alliance. The National Workforce Registry Alliance provides

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guidance regarding the collection of data elements and as often as is possible, the Alliance aligns concepts, definitions, and standards with additional data systems planning efforts, including:

- The 10 ECE Fundamentals, outlined by the Early Childhood Data Collaborative, which provides the foundation for answering the critical questions that policymakers seek to answer.
- Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) - The Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) project is a national collaborative effort to develop voluntary, common data standards for a key set of education data elements to streamline the exchange, comparison, and understanding of data within and across P-20W institutions and sectors.
- The "Early Childhood Education: Professional Development: Training and Technical Assistance Glossary" developed by NAEYC and NACCRRA.

OPEN supports and follows NAEYC's position on issues related to practice, policy, and professional development. To learn more, you are encouraged to review the NAEYC Position Statements and Standards found at http://www.naeyc.org/position-statements.

General Questions?

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Submitting documents?

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