

## What are the Core Competencies and why are they important?

The Core Competencies document defines the progression of knowledge needed to be a successful professional in the early education and school age fields.

The eight content areas characterize the broad concepts that are essential to success for the professional and the children that they work with.

The five levels establish a continuum from the preliminary skills necessary to enter the field to an advanced level of academic preparation and varied experience. Professionals progress from one level to another through a combination of formal study and reflection on practice.

[Download the Core Competencies self-assessment workbook \(.pdf\)](#)

[Download the Core Competencies quick reference guide \(Excel\)](#)

[Download the Indicators](#)

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## How are the Core Competencies used in Missouri?

### **Providers, Practitioners, Teachers, Youth Workers:**

Assess level of knowledge and skill in each of the eight content areas

Identify specific areas of need for future professional development (e.g., training/education)

### **Directors, Program Administrators:**

Specify training/education requirements for staff job descriptions

Develop staff training/education plans and policies

Establish a salary scale based on staff educational achievement

### **Trainers, Training Organizations:**

Plan and organize training/education

Promote training/education opportunities

### **Higher Education Faculty, Staff, and Administrators:**

Coordinate and design course content to facilitate transfer and articulation agreements

Assess current program content to determine course development

### **Federal, State, and Local Agencies:**

Develop and implement policies that will enhance professionalism in the field

### **Professional Development Efforts (e.g., PDI, OPEN, MOSAC2, MASN):**

Create the framework for a career development system that allows professionals to achieve recognition in the field, provides access to competency-based training/education, and ensures compensation commensurate with educational achievement.