

AIMHighNY: Early Learning Task Force Call for Application

Note: Some information below may now be out-of-date.

Please refer to the [AIMHighNY website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

The New York State Education Department is currently accepting applications for membership in the NYSED Early Learning Task Force. The Early Learning Task Force will be selected through an open application process and include 30 early learning educators, including classroom teachers, parents, teachers of students with disabilities, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers, program administrators, curriculum specialists, college professors, developmental specialists, and school administrators.

The application is open to the public from November 8th to 30th. After the Department receives the applications, we will begin the selection process and contact you by email if you are selected to the task force.

[Apply here](#)

Background

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) Early Learning Task Force will include educators and parents from across New York State. The Offices of Curriculum and Instruction and Early Learning will work together to oversee the implementation of the Task Force. Additionally, researchers with expertise in early learning and child development will be involved in the Task Force to share research and guide the discussions. The main goal for the Task Force will be to discuss concerns about how learning standards affect our earliest learners, specifically students in Prekindergarten through Grade 2. The Task Force will begin by discussing concerns in English Language Arts/Literacy, but will also include the other New York State Learning Standard areas in future discussions.

To address ongoing concerns with New York State's early learners, the Task Force will focus on, but not be limited to, the following questions:

- What is developmentally appropriate practice and what does the research show about how students learn in the early grades?
- Should learning standards in P-2 be grade-specific or structured in a different way (ex: grade-bands or a continuum) to account for developmental concerns?
- What does the research say about how standards are structured in the early grades?
- Should standards in the early grades include "with guidance and support"?
- Are there too many standards/expectations in the early grades?
- How can play and curiosity/inquiry be included as an approach to learning? Does this guidance belong in the standards or as supplementary guidance?
- What is the best approach to teach the "whole child," keeping in mind both the academic and social/emotional needs?

The Early Learning Task Force will meet in Albany, New York 3-4 times per year (plus possible online meetings) at the State Education Department building or another Albany location. Members who are selected to serve on the Early Learning Task Force will be contacted by mid-December and asked to complete the necessary paperwork to join the Task Force. Reimbursement for travel will be provided, including train or mileage, hotel at the State rate, meals, and parking. Please note that it can take anywhere from six weeks to several months to receive reimbursement payments.

The first meeting will be held in early winter 2017.