

# Vermont's Unified Core Knowledge Areas

Early childhood and afterschool professionals use three types of standards to guide their work: program standards, professional standards, and learning standards. Professional standards are the essential knowledge, skills, dispositions, and practices required of professionals who work with children and youth.



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There are several sets of professional standards used in Vermont. You should choose the set of professional standards that best aligns with your role in the field.

## Professional Standards Documents

## Usage in Vermont

InTASC Core Teaching Standards	◆ Educators licensed by AOE
Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education Standards	◆ Early Interventionists Early Childhood Special Educators
NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators	◆ Early Childhood Educators working in public or private settings
NAA Core Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals	◆ Afterschool Professionals

Northern Lights used the professional standards documents above to develop Vermont's Unified Core Knowledge Areas. They provide shared language that works across multiple sets of professional standards.

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| <p><b>1 Child Development and Learning</b></p> <p><b>2 Family and Community Partnerships</b></p> <p><b>3 Developmentally Appropriate and Inclusive Practices</b></p> <p><b>4 Curriculum and Learning Environments</b></p> <p><b>5 Observation and Assessment</b></p> <p><b>6 Professionalism and Ethical Practice</b></p> | <p><b>7 Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice</b></p> <p><b>8 Safety and Wellness</b></p> <p><b>9 Program Planning and Development</b></p> <p>Core knowledge areas #7, 8, and 9 are included in the professional standards for afterschool professionals. These knowledge areas are not included in the early childhood standards referenced above.</p> |
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