

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

- InTASC Core Teaching Standards
- Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education Standards
- NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators
- NAA Core Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals

Usage in Vermont

- ◆ Educators licensed by AOE
- ◆ Early Interventionists
Early Childhood Special Educators
- ◆ Early Childhood Educators working in public or private settings
- ◆ 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.

1 Child Development and Learning

2 Family and Community Partnerships

3 Developmentally Appropriate and Inclusive Practices

4 Curriculum and Learning Environments

5 Observation and Assessment

6 Professionalism and Ethical Practice

7 Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice

8 Safety and Wellness

9 Program Planning and Development

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.