

**WORKING DRAFT**

**Framework for Understanding Parenting Educator Professional Preparation and Recognition**

This framework is designed to provide information about existing types of professional preparation and recognition available for practitioners in the field of parenting education. Individuals enter parenting education from a broad range of experience and educational levels - from high school education or GED to doctoral degree. This framework is not meant to be a career ladder but can be used as a resource in the development of one. A person can be engaged in more than one of the types of professional preparation and recognition listed simultaneously.

There is currently no widely accepted consensus regarding definitions for the terms “credential” and “certificate” as is evident in the terms used in the examples below. The following are working definitions of these terms as used in this document:

- Certificate – completion of a course of study (e.g., 10-day course, 16-credit graduate program; can be credit or non-credit)
- Credential – verification or validation of one’s qualifications (experiences and education) as a professional by a third party based on defined criteria

<b>Professional Preparation and Recognition Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Examples</b> (These are posted only to illustrate the type of Professional Preparation and Recognition in the row and not endorsed by NPEN.)
<b>1. Voluntary Registry or Directory</b>	Voluntary addition of name to this list as a parenting educator; searchable database; can be used to identify or locate registered parenting educators to inform them about professional development opportunities	No standards or quality control; self-reported professional information	Texas – Registry of Parent Educator Resources (ROPER) - <a href="http://www.cpe.unt.edu/roper.php">www.cpe.unt.edu/roper.php</a>
<b>2. Parenting Education Professional Development Training</b>	<p>a. Completion of one or more courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, institutes, or related sessions designed to enhance parenting educator competencies</p> <p>b. (1) Completion of training in an evidence-supported/based curriculum or program* without participation in ongoing, professional development</p>	Standards defined by delivering or sponsoring agency, organization, or institution; expertise may be in the materials rather than held by the person delivering the professional development	<p>a. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Abuse Prevention Workshop</li> <li>• Fatherhood Conference</li> <li>• State &amp; National Child and/or Family Conference</li> <li>• Diversity Seminar</li> </ul> <p>b. (1) Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurturing Parenting - <a href="http://www.nurturingparenting.com/">http://www.nurturingparenting.com/</a></li> <li>• The Incredible Years - <a href="http://www.incredibleyears.com/">http://www.incredibleyears.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>b. (2) Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents as Teachers - <a href="http://www.parentsasteachers.org/">http://www.parentsasteachers.org/</a> (32 hour</li> </ul>

	<p>through external support and/or oversight</p> <p>b. (2) Completion of training in an evidence-supported/based curriculum or program* with participation in ongoing, professional development through external support and/or oversight</p>		<p>Prenatal to Three Institute and 15 hour Three to Kindergarten Entry Institute carrying 2-3 college credits depending upon institution offering)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Coach Certification - <a href="http://www.thepci.org">www.thepci.org</a> (one-year, graduate-level, distance-learning program offered in collaboration with Seattle Pacific University's Department of Education)</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Verification of Parenting Educator Competencies (generally referred to as a credential)</b></p>	<p>Verification or validation of one's qualifications or competencies as a professional by a third party (often a panel of credentialed/certified parenting educators) based on defined criteria that usually include education and experience</p> <p>Often submitted as a portfolio or verified by an exam</p> <p>Includes a renewal process</p>	<p>Standards defined by a state or national organization or institution</p> <p>May be awarded as steps or levels (e.g. 1-4) of credentialing/certification based on education and experience</p>	<p>Texas –Professional Development Recognition System (4 steps) - <a href="http://www.cpe.unt.edu/dev_recognition.php">www.cpe.unt.edu/dev_recognition.php</a></p> <p>North Carolina Parenting Education Credential (4-levels) - <a href="http://www.ncpen.org/credential.html">www.ncpen.org/credential.html</a></p> <p>Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through National Council on Family Relations (NCFR); undergraduate degree required (Parent Education and Guidance is one of ten areas assessed through an exam) <a href="http://www.ncfr.org/cert/index.asp">http://www.ncfr.org/cert/index.asp</a></p> <p>Connecticut Parenting Education Credential (Provisional and 4 levels) – <a href="http://www.ctpen.org">www.ctpen.org</a></p>
<p><b>4. College Course or Program Completion</b></p>			
<p><b>(a) Course(s) in Parenting Education</b></p>	<p>Completion of a course or series of courses (either non-credit including Continuing Education Credits [CEUs] or credit undergraduate or graduate), which may include a certificate, from an accredited institution of higher education without a</p>	<p>Standards based on criteria within professional development non-credit course(s) or credit college course(s)</p>	<p>Iowa State University Extension course credits, CEUS, or parenting education certificate of completion - Partnering with Parents <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp">www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp</a></p> <p>Cornell's (NY) Family Development Credential (90-hour course and portfolio development with exam – focuses mainly on family and community with less emphasis on parenting and child development; a number of states are offering and recognizing this</p>

	degree		preparation as part of their parenting education preparation system.) - <a href="http://www.human.cornell.edu/che/HD/FDC/">http://www.human.cornell.edu/che/HD/FDC/</a>
<b>(b) Graduate Certificate in Parenting Education</b>	Completion of 12-20 hours of graduate credit from an accredited institution of higher education	Standards based on criteria within graduate credit courses and certificate program	<p>North Carolina State University (12 credit hours) - <a href="http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/4hfcs/academic/cert/">http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/4hfcs/academic/cert/</a></p> <p>Wheelock College (MA) (15 credit-hour Certificate in Parenting Education) - <a href="http://www2.wheelock.edu/wheelock/x250.xml">http://www2.wheelock.edu/wheelock/x250.xml</a></p> <p>Plymouth State University (NH) (18 credit-hour certificate) - <a href="http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/counseling/certificates.html">http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/counseling/certificates.html</a></p> <p>Rivier College (NH) (16 course credit certificate) - <a href="http://catalog.rivier.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=68andpoid=3914">http://catalog.rivier.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=68andpoid=3914</a></p> <p>University of Minnesota Family Education Graduate Certificate Program in Parent Education (16 course credits) - <a href="http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CI/Programs/college/Certificates/ParentEd.html">http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CI/Programs/college/Certificates/ParentEd.html</a></p> <p>University of North Texas (15 credit hours) - <a href="http://www.unt.edu/pais/grad/gdfec.htm">http://www.unt.edu/pais/grad/gdfec.htm</a></p>
<b>(c) Graduate Degree in Parenting Education</b>	Completion of graduate courses resulting in a graduate degree in family life and/or parenting education from an accredited institution of higher education	Standards based on criteria within graduate credit courses and degree program	<p>North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro – jointly administered Master of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration in Family Life and Parent Education (34 credits) - <a href="http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/4hfcs/academics/masters/index.html">www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/4hfcs/academics/masters/index.html</a></p> <p>St. Cloud State University (MN)</p>

			<a href="http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/cfs.asp">http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/cfs.asp</a> and University of MN <a href="http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CI/Programs/college/PS/Family/default.html">http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CI/Programs/college/PS/Family/default.html</a> Master's degrees available simultaneously with teacher licensure in parent education
<b>5. State Teacher License in Parent/Family Education</b>	Official or legal permission to practice granted by an appropriate authority; competency-based, renewable teacher license; passing pre-professional skills test required	Standards based on assessment of an established set of competencies acquired through completion of college credit-based courses from an accredited institution of higher education	State of Minnesota Board of Teaching license as Parent and Family Educator: MN Educator License <a href="http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/3100.html">www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/3100.html</a> MN Standards of Effective Practice <a href="http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/2000.html">www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/2000.html</a> (Available in Child and Family Studies at St. Cloud State University (MN) - <a href="http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/cfs.asp">http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/cfs.asp</a> and Family Education at the University of MN - <a href="http://cehd.umn.edu/CI/Programs/FYC/parent.html">http://cehd.umn.edu/CI/Programs/FYC/parent.html</a> )

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Based on current knowledge of NPEN Professional Preparation and Recognition Committee Members. Please contact Karen DeBord at [karen\\_debord@ncsu.edu](mailto:karen_debord@ncsu.edu), Pam Langer at [connpat@earthlink.net](mailto:connpat@earthlink.net), Dana McDermott at [dmcderm2@depaul.edu](mailto:dmcderm2@depaul.edu), Jerri Wolfe at [Jerri.Wolfe@linnbenton.edu](mailto:Jerri.Wolfe@linnbenton.edu), or Betty Cooke at [cooke047@umn.edu](mailto:cooke047@umn.edu) if you have questions or information to add to the framework.

\*Evidence-supported/based curriculum/program – curriculum whose program outcomes have been studied through use of experimental design evaluation research. A program is evidence-supported/based if it is based in theory and has undergone scientific evaluation to provide outcomes and evidence that the program is effective in changing parental practice. When implemented exactly as designed and recommended, an educational program should obtain the same outcomes (<http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/ebp/strategies/documents/ParentingEducationLiteratureSearch.pdf>, <http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/help-glossary.asp#evidence-based>, [http://www.friendsnrc.org/download/eb\\_prog\\_direct.pdf](http://www.friendsnrc.org/download/eb_prog_direct.pdf)).