

WORKING DRAFT (Revised 7.20)

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, 12-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

NOTE: Numbers 1 & 2 below are Professional **Preparation** Types and Numbers 3, 4, & 5 are Professional **Recognition** Types.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION			
Professional PREPARATION Type	Description	Standards	Examples (These are posted only to illustrate the type of Professional Preparation in the row and not endorsed by NPEN.)
1. Parenting Education Professional Development Training	<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 through external support and/or oversight</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"> • Child Abuse Prevention Workshop • Fatherhood Conference • State & National Child and/or Family Conference • Diversity Seminar <p>b. (1) Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing Parenting - http://www.nurturingparenting.com/ <p>b. (2) Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents as Teachers - http://www.parentsasteachers.org/ (32 hour Prenatal to Three Institute and 15 hour Three to Kindergarten Entry Institute carrying 2-3 college credits depending upon institution offering)

	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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Coach Certification - www.thepci.org (one-year, graduate-level, distance-learning program offered in collaboration with Seattle Pacific University's Department of Education) • The Incredible Years - http://www.incredibleyears.com/ • PCIT: Parent-Child Interaction Therapy http://www.pcit.org/
2. College Course or Program Completion			
(a) Course(s) in Parenting Education	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 degree	Standards based on criteria within professional development non-credit course(s) or credit college course(s)	<p>Portland Community College Classes in parenting education https://www.pcc.edu/programs/parent-education/</p> <p>Graduate Courses in Family Life Coaching https://yfcsonline.cals.ncsu.edu/online-masters-and-certificate-programs/bcc/</p>
(b) Graduate Certificate in Parenting Education	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) - Family Life Education and Coaching https://yfcsonline.cals.ncsu.edu/online-masters-and-certificate-programs/graduate-certificates/</p> <p>Adelphi University –The Institute for Parenting offers a post-Master's training program in parenting education and parent guidance, a comprehensive one-year program for parent educators. https://parenting.adelphi.edu/parent-education-and-guidance-training/</p> <p>University of Minnesota Family Education Graduate Certificate Program in Parent Education (15 credits)</p>

			https://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/programs/professional/certificate/index.html St. Cloud State University (MN) Parent Education Graduate Certificate (34 credits) https://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduate/parent-ed/default.aspx
(c) Graduate Degree in Parenting Education	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	North Carolina State University Master of Science in Youth, Family, and Community Sciences (M.S.) Master of Youth, Family, and Community Sciences (M.R.) https://yfcsonline.cals.ncsu.edu/online-masters-and-certificate-programs/masters-degree/ University of MN Master's degree in Family Education available simultaneously with teacher licensure in parent education https://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/programs/masters/family-ed/index.html https://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/programs/index.html St. Cloud State University Master's degree in Family Studies available simultaneously with teacher licensure in parent education https://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduate/cfs/default.aspx
PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION			
Professional RECOGNITION Type	Description	Standards	Examples (These are posted only to illustrate the type of Professional Recognition in the row and not endorsed by NPEN.)
3. Voluntary Registry or Directory	Voluntary addition of name to this list as a parenting educator; searchable database; can be used to identify or locate registered parenting educators to	No standards or quality control; self-reported professional information	North Carolina Parenting Education Network http://ncpen.org/directory/

	inform them about professional development opportunities		
4. Verification of Parenting Educator Competencies (generally referred to as a credential)	<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>North Carolina Parenting Education Credential (4-levels) - http://ncpen.org/parenting-educator-credential/pe-application/</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) https://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification</p> <p>Connecticut Parenting Education Credential (Provisional and 4 levels) – www.ctpen.org</p> <p>New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) www.nyspep.org</p>
5. State Teacher License in Parent/Family Education	<p>Official or legal permission to practice granted by an appropriate authority; competency-based, renewable teacher license; passing pre-professional skills test required</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>State of Minnesota Board of Teaching license as Parent and Family Educator (both licensure rules below are required of public school parent educators):</p> <p>MN Teachers of Parent and Family Education www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/3100.html</p> <p>MN Standards of Effective Practice for Teachers www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/2000.html</p> <p>Available in Family Studies at St. Cloud State University (MN) https://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduate/cfs/default.aspx</p> <p>and Family Education at the University of MN - https://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/programs/professional/license/index.html</p>

Based on current knowledge of NPEN Professional Preparation and Recognition Committee Members. Please contact committee members at pprc@npen.org 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.friendsnrc.org/download/eb_prog_direct.pdf).