



Watch & Talk: Virtual Gatherings to Advance the

Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession

After three years and the engagement of more than 11,000 early childhood educators across states and settings, the Power to the Profession Task Force released the [Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession](#) and the [Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators](#) on March 9, 2020 in an [unprecedented show of unity](#).

While the COVID-19 pandemic thrust our country and child care industry into a public health and economic crisis only days after the release of the *Unifying Framework*, the importance of the vision it articulates—and our commitment to seeing it through—has only

increased. We built this movement together and together we will draw from our shared values to rebuild the essential, effective, diverse, well-prepared and well-compensated profession our children, families, and nation need.

Your leadership moving forward is more important than ever, and we encourage you to take advantage of the moment we are in now to hold 90-minute virtual gatherings with friends and colleagues to [watch this video](#) summary of the *Unifying Framework* taken from the release event with all 15 Task Force member organizations, review the recommendations in the *Unifying Framework*, and make a plan for action!

Tips for hosting a “Watch & Talk” Virtual Gathering

1. Get Familiar!

Before the gathering, visit [PowerToTheProfession.org](#) to review materials, including the *Unifying Framework* document and the Executive Summary, as well as the source material from each Power to the Profession Decision Cycle.

2. Get Connected!

Invite educators, colleagues, co-workers, stakeholders, and community leaders. No matter how much engagement you and your fellow participants had with Power to the Profession before, now is the perfect time to join in!

3. Get Talking!

Share the [video link](#) with your virtual audience so they can view the presentation on their own computers. Encourage everyone to start the video at a specific time; the video runs approximately 45 minutes. You can use the online platform of your choice to set up a chat box to gather questions and comments that people have as they view the video, and then come together for a virtual post-video discussion.

Key Discussion Questions

If you're facilitating the conversation, feel free to use some or all of these suggested questions to get and keep the discussion going! You can also access [this form](#) to send your discussion questions and notes straight to NAEYC!

- ➔ The *Unifying Framework* contains recommendations for the career pathways, preparation, competencies, responsibilities, and compensation of the early childhood education profession. If the recommendations were to be implemented successfully, what would change for early childhood educators in our community?
- ➔ Many early childhood education programs, already on the edge, are now facing deep financial and structural challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. How might having a unified early childhood education profession make a difference in times of crisis?
- ➔ The current early childhood education field is undervalued and inequitable, with a stratified workforce and significant wage disparities for early childhood educators of color, within this already low-wage workforce. With a focus on both the education and compensation of the profession, how does the *Unifying Framework* advance equity and address anti-racism in its recommended policies and structures? Where might the *Unifying Framework* encounter challenges in advancing equity and how can those challenges be addressed?
- ➔ Pick a recommendation that resonates with you. What systems or structures are already in place to support its implementation? What would need to change? What would need to be created?
- ➔ Who in our community needs to be engaged in the work to advance the *Unifying Framework*?
- ➔ What are the best strategies to facilitate and support their engagement?
- ➔ What are two next steps we can take to move this work forward in the next month? Six months? One year?

4. Get Involved!

- ➔ Use [this form](#) or email info@PowerToTheProfession.org to share your experience and ideas! We can't wait to hear about who you are and what thoughts and questions you have.
- ➔ Sign the pledge to show you are joining with educators across the country to say "I'm in" for the *Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession*.
- ➔ Keep the conversation going on social media! Use #PowerToTheProfession to share your insights and excitement.
- ➔ Visit PowerToTheProfession.org to sign up for occasional alerts and updates that will help you stay engaged!
- ➔ Keep the power of this profession going! Go to americaforearlyed.org/ourvotes to register to vote and pledge to vote—and then encourage your early childhood education colleagues and the families you work with to do the same!