



Pyramid Model Implementation in Illinois

2022 SUMMARY

Our Mission

Early childhood education and care systems (ECEC) in Illinois are committed to promoting and supporting a racially equitable, inclusive, and diverse society that embraces healthy social-emotional development for all children ages birth through five and their families across settings.

Our Method

Illinois has been promoting the adoption of the Pyramid Model (PM) since 2017, through continued collaboration with the Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC), a non-profit organization that promotes high-fidelity use of the Pyramid Model.

Goal

The Goal of the Illinois Pyramid Model initiative is to provide high quality programs for all children in the ECEC system by:

Providing targeted professional development to providers, coaches, and other professionals	Supporting capacity building by promoting professional development and diversification of leadership teams and master cadre members	Gathering feedback for continuous quality improvement
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2022 SUMMARY

In 2022, Illinois leaders and key constituents continued to collaborate to expand access to high-quality early childhood education programming and support the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) workforce infrastructure. The work is supported by the Illinois Pyramid Model State Leadership Team (IPMSLT). First convened in 2017, this diverse group met monthly and represented a cross-sector of 11 agencies. The IPMSLT has developed 3 workgroups to address the specific needs identified on the Statewide Benchmarks of Quality (EC-BoQ) self assessment tool; 1) a data and evaluation workgroup, 2) an implementation workgroup, and 3) a professional development workgroup. Each workgroup developed an individualized action plan with items related to statewide support for Pyramid Model implementation and communication about the project. Workgroups met and shared updates at the monthly SLT meetings throughout 2022.

Thirty-four (34) Process Coaches provided direct support to 61 ECEC programs across four distinct sectors of ECEC. In 2022, survey data showed that process coaches spent the majority of their time and effort supporting program leadership teams and internal coaches in their implementation of the Pyramid Model. Coaches supported these programs through regular and strategic contact with leadership team members, program administrators, internal coaches, and classroom teachers, among other professionals who support programs.

In 2022 efforts were made to expand the Master Cadre (MC) to a second cohort of Pyramid Model expert trainers through professional development and monthly meetings. The Master Cadre is a diverse group of professionals (n=38) situated across all regions of the State who serve ECEC programs across sectors. 2022 Program Leadership Survey results suggested that 77% of programs trained the majority

of teaching staff in Level 1 (Relationships), 66% in Level 2 (Targeted Strategies), and 57% in Level 3 (Individualized Intervention). These data demonstrated a significant increase in the number of staff trained in each program across all three Modules.

Thanks to efforts made in 2021 to increase training (n=106 participants) on the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and Teaching Pyramid Infant Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS), during 2022 Illinois saw an increase in completed classroom observations. In 2022, 130 classroom observations (TPOT) were submitted. These data reveal that the majority of classroom staff increased their use of Pyramid Model key practices. Forty-one (41) of the sixty-one (61) programs completed EC-BoQ forms, more than doubling entries in 2022 from 2021. The increase in EC-BoQ data provided more information on how ECEC programs are doing with program-wide implementation practices. Results indicated that on average, Leadership Teams reported many critical elements “partially in place,” with a fair portion reportedly “in place.” The strongest elements noted were Establishing Leadership Teams, Staff Buy-In, and Program-wide Expectations. Programs showed the greatest growth (over previous years) in Procedures for Responding to Challenging Behavior. This is in line with the pointed effort in 2022 to provide Prevent Teach Reinforce – Young Children (PTR-YC) training and additional coaching support.

In 2022, the Illinois Pyramid Model project saw growth in professional development opportunities, data collection, strategic coaching support, exhibiting Pyramid Model key practices in classrooms, and meeting more program-wide implementation benchmarks. The IPMSLT plans to continue to expand upon these efforts, working towards the goal of providing high quality programs for all children in the ECEC system.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

61 Implementation Sites



- **ISBE**
Spring 2018 (22)
Spring 2019 (4)
Fall 2019 (8)
- **Head Start**
Fall 2019 (8)
- ◇ **Center-based Child Care**
Fall 2020 (4)
Spring 2021 (6)
- ◇ **Family Child Care**
Summer 2021 (9)

[Explore the map](#)

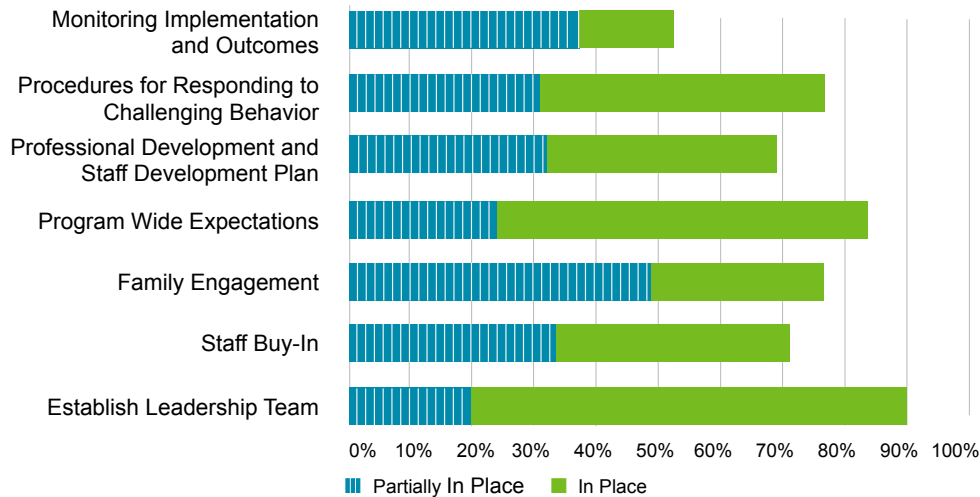
Cross-Sector Collaboration Across Illinois



Professional Development



EC-BoQ Critical Elements “In Place” or “Partially In Place”



Looking Forward

A key theme woven throughout the feedback was ongoing system challenges such as the growing requirements for early care and learning settings, ongoing staffing challenges, and stresses on the workforce. Questions to explore in 2023...

How can programs grow and sustain high-quality environments, relationships, and routines over time?

How can TPOT/ TPITOS processes to ensure fidelity be better utilized in decision-making?

How can the overall capacity of teams to engage in data-based decision-making be enhanced?

How can providers and teams build their capacity to support children with challenging behaviors?

Equity We collect, report, and use data on the diversity of Pyramid Model participants and implementation sites across the state, as well as how our work is contributing to reducing inequitable practices. For more information about the Illinois Pyramid Model Initiative and to read the brief, please visit <https://pyramidmodel.org/affiliates/Illinois>.

[Read the brief](#)