

Help wanted: Early intervention and early childhood special education workforce needs ^[1]

Findings from a national survey

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AVAILABILITY

Access online ^[2]

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Abstract

Our national survey of the EI/ECSE workforce highlights key strengths and concerns. Workers find their roles rewarding, appreciate making a difference for children and families, and are well-qualified, with most holding at least a bachelor's degree. However, the workforce lacks diversity, which may not reflect the children served, and nearly all workers are female, while more boys receive EI and ECSE services. High-stress levels, large caseloads, inadequate support, and poor compensation are significant issues. Addressing these challenges through better training, support, and innovative solutions is essential to retain and attract qualified professionals, ensuring children and families receive the necessary services without delays.

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