



## MRTQ PDN's Early Childhood Education Program Quality Specialists

MRTQ PDN's contract with Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) outlines a system that ensures that there are trained technical assistance (TA) providers associated with each of the eight Child Welfare Districts. These TA providers, known as Early Childhood Education Program Quality Specialists (QSs), have backgrounds in early childhood, out-of-school time, and public school settings, as well as formal training and experience in providing TA. Information about MRTQ PDN's TA services can be found on our website: <https://mrtq.org/technical-assistance/>.

### What is the role of the QS?

The QSs serve as a resource to the early childhood and youth workforce and support quality improvement for programs across Maine. Their goal is to build strong relationships with practitioners and programs. Their primary function is to provide TA, which includes virtual or on-site consultation and facilitating peer-to-peer networks (e.g. Communities of Practice, Maine Credential and/or Accreditation cohorts, Book Clubs, etc.). TA provided by MRTQ PDN typically focuses on one or more of the *Rising Stars for ME* standards. Information about *Rising Stars for ME* can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-care/gris>.

MRTQ PDN's team of QSs are regionally-based, primarily in the district in which they live, and work both independently and within a larger staff team. Having regionally-based QSs allows each to build relationships and connect with local programs, stakeholders, and service providers.

### How can my program work with a QS?

Program owners/administrators complete an online request form for Virtual or On-Site Consultation through the MRTQ PDN Website (<https://mrtq.org/technical-assistance/>). Lee Lingelbach, the TA Manager, will make initial contact with programs requesting consultation and then forward the request to the appropriate QS.

### Who is the QS in my area?

Each QS has an assigned district or specialty, but is also available statewide.

- **District 1** (York County): Tammy Dwyer [tammy.dwyer@maine.edu](mailto:tammy.dwyer@maine.edu)
- **District 2** (Cumberland County): Diane Hancock [diane.hancock@maine.edu](mailto:diane.hancock@maine.edu)
- **District 3** (Androscoggin, Franklin, & Oxford Counties): Kari Payne [kari.payne@maine.edu](mailto:kari.payne@maine.edu)
- **District 4** (Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc, and Waldo Counties): Heather Jones [heather.jones1@maine.edu](mailto:heather.jones1@maine.edu)
- **District 5** (Kennebec and Somerset Counties): Robin Holman [robin.holman@maine.edu](mailto:robin.holman@maine.edu)
- **District 6** (Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties): Kellie Davis (Penobscot) [kellie.davis@maine.edu](mailto:kellie.davis@maine.edu) and Robin Holman (Piscataquis) [robin.holman@maine.edu](mailto:robin.holman@maine.edu)
- **District 7** (Hancock and Washington Counties): Kellie Davis (Hancock) [kellie.davis@maine.edu](mailto:kellie.davis@maine.edu) and Theresa Fisk (Washington) [theresa.fisk@maine.edu](mailto:theresa.fisk@maine.edu)
- **District 8** (Aroostook County): Theresa Fisk [theresa.fisk@maine.edu](mailto:theresa.fisk@maine.edu)
- **Statewide Inclusion Consultation**: Shilo Johnson [shilo.goodhue@maine.edu](mailto:shilo.goodhue@maine.edu)

If you have questions about the work of the QSs or MRTQ PDN's TA System, please contact Lee Lingelbach, TA Manager, at 207-626-5023 or [lee.lingelbach@maine.edu](mailto:lee.lingelbach@maine.edu).