FAQs for 2019-2020 Implementation

How to Apply

- **How do I apply?**
  - Participants who registered for the CSW Webinar for Administrators will receive an email with a link to the online registration. Registration will remain open until 9 a.m. on Monday, April 15. If you do not receive an email, please contact us at umdcsw@umd.edu.
- **What is the cost of the curriculum?**
  - For programs selected to implement CSW beginning in Fall 2019, the CSW curriculum is free. Each CSW classroom will receive one iPad, Read Aloud books, and math materials. Teachers will also receive coaching.
- **When will programs be notified if they are selected for the 2019-2020 roll-out of the CSW curriculum?**
  - We expect to have the selection process complete and will begin notifying programs by the end of April.
- **If my program is selected, when will the curriculum be available to view?**
  - Teachers will receive full access to the curriculum when they attend their assigned (by region) CSW training this summer. Program directors and administrators with access to an Apple iPad/iPhone will be given access in late July.
- **If my program is not selected, can I still use CSW during the 2019-20 school year?**
  - The CSW curriculum will be available only to those programs that are selected for the Fall 2019 roll-out funded by MSDE.
  - We will have an expanded roll-out, to include unfunded classrooms/programs, in the fall of 2020.

Eligibility

- **Does a child care program need to be at a certain level in Maryland EXCELS?**
  - Priority will be given to programs that are published in Maryland EXCELS, but there is no minimum level requirement.
- **What are the educational requirements for the PreK teachers?**
  - Teachers need to meet MD Child Care Licensing standards for four-year-old classrooms.
- **My school is not a Title 1 school. Can I still apply?**
  - Yes, however priority will be given to Title 1 schools.

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- **I represent a public school PreK in partnership with the local school system. Should the local school system apply for its classroom while I apply only for my PreK?**
  - Sign up for all classes in a building, but do notify us of your partnership with the public school in the final comment box of the application.
- **Can this curriculum be used in a faith-based preschool?**
  - Yes.
- **Are family child care providers eligible to apply?**
  - Yes.

CSW Design
- **Do you have plans to include other ages besides age 4?**
  - Our plan, funding permitting, is to start writing a curriculum for three-year-olds in 2020.
  - We also plan to eventually have a curriculum for toddlers and one for infants, but those projects are several years out.
  - There is no plan for CECEI to develop a curriculum for mixed-age classrooms.
- **Since this requires a 2-year commitment, will the projects will be different for the second year?**
  - No. The expectation is that the first year of four-year-olds will move on to kindergarten and a new group of four-year-olds will experience the curriculum in year 2.
- **Our program is Reggio-inspired; we try to follow children's interests, supported by teachers who are co-learners and co-researchers. Since CSW has pre-selected eight projects, how can this curriculum work in a school that is Reggio-inspired?**
  - Lesson plans for CSW are flexible; while they incorporate suggested songs, activities, guiding questions, and scripting, teachers are encouraged to customize lessons and projects to follow children's interests. However, any modified lesson plans must still align with the identified Maryland Early Learning Standards and Early Learning Assessment (ELA), to include the ELA learning progressions, within a lesson and a project. This ensures that all areas of the ELA are covered by the end of the year.
  - Note: Programs selected to participate in the 2019-2020 roll-out are expected to implement CSW with fidelity.
- **How does CSW support children who have English as a second language?**
  - CSW incorporates specific strategies for supporting children who are English Learners (ELs). Strategies are tailored to each lesson. CSW offers two additional resources of special interest to teachers of ELs:
    - As part of our expert educator podcast series, we have a podcast dedicated to Instructional Strategies for Supporting Dual Language Learners.
    - We also have specific guidance for supporting ELs as part of a guide called *Setting the Stage for the CSW Curriculum*. This can be found in iTunes U and includes strategies for supporting both children and families who are learning English.

- **Are there ways to accommodate children who struggle?**
  - CSW incorporates Universal Design for Learning principles, strategies to support specially designed instruction for children with disabilities, and strategies to support English Learners. Lesson plans for CSW are flexible; while they incorporate suggested songs, activities, guiding questions, and scripting, teachers can easily adapt them to suit their children's abilities and interests.
- **Can teachers create their own picture cards using the children in the class? For example, body parts pictures.**
  - Certainly, if a teacher has the time and resources to personalize instructional materials, she/he may do so.

CSW Components
- **My preschool does not do field trips. Can I invite visitors to the classroom instead?**
  - Yes, but we strongly encourage programs to look for creative ways to have children participate in at least one field trip throughout the year.
- **How flexible is the schedule?**
  - CSW has a recommended schedule and order of activities. However, the schedule provided can be modified to reflect your program's needs. For example, full-day programs will complete all activities; half-day programs will follow the schedule for the first half of the day only.
  - The schedule can also be adapted to work with specialists (e.g., music, art, physical education). When working with specialists, we encourage teachers to share information on relevant projects and lessons.
- **Can the curriculum be adapted for part-time programs? For example, a class that meets five mornings or three afternoons?**
  - The CSW curriculum was designed for half- and full-day programs that typically meet five days per week. It would be impossible to move through the entire "school year" part of the curriculum (projects 1-7) in a program meeting only three days per week.
- **Can I supplement CSW with another program?**
  - Selection for the 2019 implementation of CSW is based upon a program's willingness to use CSW as the <u>only</u> curriculum. Moreover, the CSW day is so full, it would be time prohibitive to try to incorporate an additional curriculum.

Trainings
- **What are the dates and locations for the required training? Will all four trainings take place at the same location?**
  - We cannot determine dates and exact locations for the CSW trainings until we know which programs/schools are participating in the 2019 implementation of the CSW curriculum. However, the initial, 2-day regional trainings will be held between late June and early August throughout the state. The 1-day trainings in October and in November also will be delivered regionally.
- **How many teachers from each classroom can attend trainings?**
  - For this year's implementation, we have funding to support the training of the lead teacher in each of the selected classrooms.

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- **Will administrators and curriculum coordinators receive training?**
  - Yes, a 1-day orientation will be held in early August for administrators, coordinators, and directors.
- **How often will teachers receive coaching?**
  - Each teacher will receive up to 100 hours of coaching between September and December (and additional coaching from January to June, funding permitting). The schedule will be determined by each coach, in consideration of the teacher's/program's schedule.

Families
- **What is the CSW website? How can we find the family site?**
  - Programs are encouraged to share a link to the CSW website (https://go.umd.edu/umd-csw), which has a tab specific to families. In addition, the website offers families an overview of the entire CSW curriculum and individual CSW projects.

iPads & Technology
- **What if I don't have an iPhone or iPad? Can I use a PC or Android device?**
  - CSW was developed in collaboration with Apple, Inc. The curriculum was designed for use on the iPad and is housed on Apple's iTunes U platform. Because of this, users must have access to an Apple iPad or even an iPhone to access the curriculum.
  - Projects and lesson plans were developed in iBooks format, which allowed us to take advantage of features such as pop-ups, embedded media, and smooth navigation between different parts of the book. Not all features from an iBook transfer over readily to a different format for viewing on a PC. For teachers to have the best interactive experience with CSW, we have decided to keep the format in Apple iBooks through iTunes U. This means the curriculum can only be viewed on an Apple iPad or iPhone.
- **Is the iPad included?**
  - For the school year starting Fall 2019, each classroom that has been selected to implement CSW will receive one free iPad. Programs are responsible for purchasing additional iPads, if desired. Contact us directly so that we may help you with the minimal technical requirements for purchasing additional iPads.
- **My classrooms use co-teachers. Can I use more than one iPad per classroom, even if I have to pay for the additional ones?**
  - Yes. As long as you purchase any additional iPads and your program has been selected to implement CSW for the school year beginning Fall 2019, all 4-year-old classroom teachers and co-teachers can have access to all the course materials available in the iTunes U CSW course.

- **Will participants be able to keep the iPads after the 2019-2020 school year has ended?**
    - Selection for CSW implementation requires a two-year commitment.
    - The iPads provided are the property of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Programs will be allowed to retain the iPads as long as they are implementing the CSW curriculum. If a program stops implementing CSW, the iPads must be returned to MSDE. All other provided materials (Read Aloud books, etc.) will remain the property of the program.
- **Is the iPad intended to be used by children?**
    - The CSW iPad user agreement stipulates that teachers use the iPads for the curriculum and other educational purposes only. There are some circumstances in which teachers may want to allow children to use the iPads; however, children should use the iPad only under close teacher supervision.

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