Renee Whelan
Director of Early Childhood /Long Branch School District

What did you learn from participating in the study?

This study has informed us about school climate and classroom quality and the effects on children’s health, achievement, and social emotional development.

The study asks, "What are the ingredients of high-quality early childhood education?" We have learned that our teachers are strong in CLASS dimensions classroom organization and emotional support. Therefore, we are focusing more on the instructional support dimension, requiring special attention be paid to interactions that teach children to think, providing ongoing feedback and support to children, and facilitating children's language development.

ECERS-3 scores were also shared from the study, and our results highlighted further areas of focus, including deepening interactions in certain content areas, and focusing on the block interest area. We used the data to host a virtual PLC where all preschool teachers connected across three Early Childhood Learning Centers to discuss how to best improve our learning environments using the classroom quality results from this study. The teachers continue to reflect on their environment and practices to provide the best education to our youngest learners.