

Joelle Faulkner**Continuous Improvement Specialist - Universal Pre-Kindergarten**

Prior to joining NCSoS, Joelle Faulkner spent twenty-one years as an elementary school teacher in El Dorado County's Buckeye Union School District, teaching Kindergarten - 3rd grade and reading intervention. During her tenure with the Buckeye District, she served on many ELA and Math committees in leadership roles, as well as many school committees. Joelle also owned and operated a preschool and childcare center for thirteen years in El Dorado Hills that served approximately 75 families annually, and where she mentored her staff of 9 early educators on evidence-based early education practices. Her school received "Best Preschool of the Year" and "Best Childcare of the Year" awards multiple years. During this time, she was actively involved with her county's Early Directors Network and provided training for local providers on early literacy and school readiness. Prior to her education career, she was in the field of Recreation Administration, serving as the Recreation Services Director for a park and recreation district for 4 years and as the Youth Services Director for a non-profit organization for two years. The skills she gained through these work experiences transferred over well to the education profession. Her passion lies in the field of early education and supporting teachers who work with our youngest learners. As a continuous improvement specialist, Joelle will provide support and assistance with the implementation of Universal Pre-Kindergarten to teachers and LEAs throughout the county.