

# Welcome and thank you for joining!

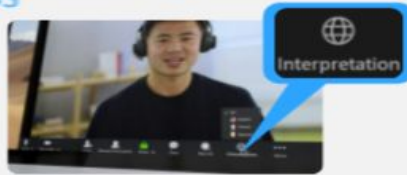


- This meeting will be recorded and posted on the ECLC Transition Webpage
- Please use the chat to ask questions for the presenters
- Spanish language interpretation is available. Follow the instructions to join the appropriate language channel

**Durante este evento, se dispondrá de interpretación de idiomas.  
Para escuchar la interpretación en un idioma:**

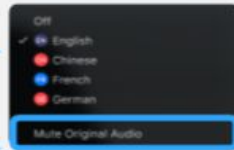


1. En los controles de la reunión o el seminario web, haga clic en **Interpretation (Interpretación)**



2. Haga clic en el idioma que desee escuchar

3. (Opcional) Para escuchar solo el idioma interpretado, haga clic en **Mute Original Audio (Silenciar audio original)**



1. En los controles de la reunión, toque el icono de los puntos suspensivos **⋮**
2. Toque **Language Interpretation (Interpretación de un idioma)**
3. Toque el idioma que usted desea escuchar



4. (Opcional) Toque el interruptor **Mute Original Audio (Silenciar audio original)**



5. Haga clic en **Done (Done)**



*Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

**Early Childhood Transition Planning**  
**Monthly Town Hall**  
**March 2023**

# Introductions

## Early Childhood Leadership Commission Co-Chairs:

- **Susan Steele** - Former President & CEO, Buell Foundation
- **Sue Renner** - Executive Director, David and Laura Merage Foundation
- **Tammi Hiler** - Special Advisor for Early Childhood and K-12 Policy for Governor Jared Polis

# Agenda

- ECLC Updates and Priority Projects
- Voices from the Field - UPK Provider Bonuses Legislation
- News from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood
- Universal Preschool Colorado Updates
- Mythbusting and Q&A
- Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

# ECLC Updates and Priority Projects



# ECLC Update and Priority Projects: *Early Childhood Colorado Framework Refresh*

**Overview:** The Early Childhood Leadership Commission is leading a process to refresh the state's [Early Childhood Colorado Framework](#)! The refresh will entail a number of opportunities for diverse stakeholder engagement at a variety of levels to ensure that we are building on our collective strengths and updating the Framework to reflect our current system and the vision for our future.

## To get involved:

- Learn more about engagement opportunities:  
<http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/early-childhood-colorado-framework>

# ECLC Update and Priority Projects: Revised Early Childhood Workforce Plan

**Overview:** The Colorado Department of Early Childhood and the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, in partnership with Early Milestones Colorado, will be updating and expanding upon the Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan, creating a new Colorado Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan! The new plan will take a broad view of the early childhood workforce including home visiting, early childhood mental health, and early intervention.

## To get involved:

- Learn more about the Listening Sessions hosted by Early Milestones Colorado:  
<https://earlymilestones.org/project/colorado-comprehensive-early-childhood-workforce-plan/>
- Join the Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee meetings:  
<http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/workforce-development-subcommittee>

# Voices from the Field - UPK Provider Participation Bonuses Bill

**Michele Stillwell-Parvensky**

Legislative Liaison, Colorado Department of  
Early Childhood





**COLORADO**

**Department of Early Childhood**

# **Universal Preschool Provider Participation Bonuses Bill**

**Michele Stillwell-Parvensky**  
**Legislative Liaison, Colorado Department of Early Childhood**  
**[michele.stillwellparvensky@state.co.us](mailto:michele.stillwellparvensky@state.co.us)**

# Bill Overview

- Sponsors: Sen. Janet Buckner and Rep. Meghan Lukens
- Slated for introduction soon
- Establishes one-time bonuses for eligible providers who offer universal preschool (UPK)
- Joint Budget Committee has approved a one-time \$2.5 million placeholder - the bill will establish the structure of the bonuses
- The goal is increase UPK provider participation to ensure that all children have access to a universal preschool classroom in their communities and to strengthen the mixed delivery system

# Bonus Structure

- All UPK providers who have registered by August 31, 2023 and have not previously participated in a state-run preschool program (e.g. Colorado Preschool Program) will receive a base bonus, (estimated at \$700-\$1,000)
- *Additionally*, all UPK provider who maintain or expand their licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2024 will receive an additional bonus at the end of the fiscal year
- CDEC will distribute a final tier of targeted bonuses to providers in low-capacity preschool areas (where UPK capacity is insufficient to meet family demand)

# Use of Funds

- Providers can use bonus payments for a variety of purposes, including:
  - Resources and materials to expand quality in the program
  - Coaching, professional development, or training
  - Bonuses for staff
  - Other services to support quality practices



# Questions? Feedback?

Michele Stillwell-Parvensky  
[michele.stillwellparvensky@state.co.us](mailto:michele.stillwellparvensky@state.co.us)

# Transition Planning

## HB21-1304

- Signed June 23, 2021
- Called for the creation of two reports:
  - Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan
    - ECLC unanimously approved in November 2021
  - Colorado Universal Preschool Recommendations
    - ECLC unanimously approved in January 2022

## HB22-1295

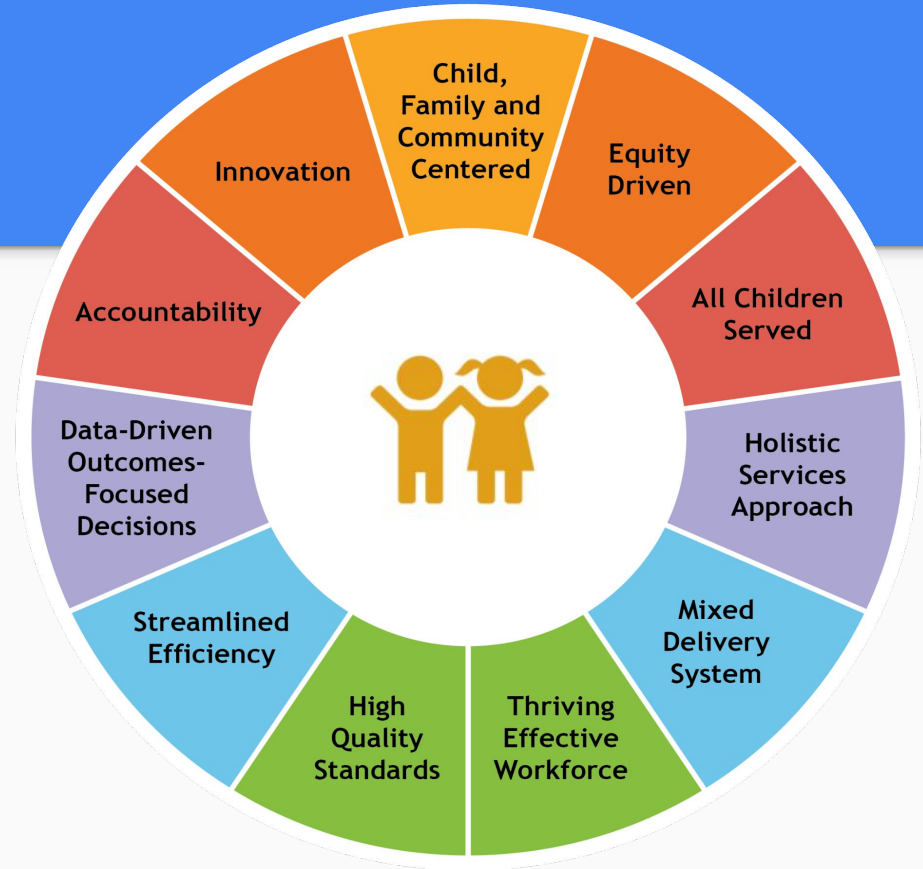
- Signed April 25, 2022
- Aligned with the recommendations of the two reports
- Established responsibilities of CDEC and the Executive Director
- Moved early childhood programs to the new department
- Created the Colorado Universal Preschool Program

CDEC officially launched July 1, 2022!



# Guiding Principles

The CDEC and UPK reports centered on the guiding principles adopted by the ECLC





**COLORADO**

**Department of Early Childhood**

# **News from the Colorado Department Early Childhood**

Mary Alice Cohen, Deputy Executive Director  
March 14, 2023



# Legislative Updates

- CDEC technical clean-up bill was introduced last week
- Joint Budget Committee Figure Setting for FY2023-2024
  - Really robust package, several successes, about 18 budget-related asks for all things EC
  - Priorities:
    - Standing up UPK
    - Supporting our people, providers, and those we serve
    - Structured investments
  - Budget (Long Bill) is introduced March 27, with final passage April 14
  - Budget Enacted July 1, 2023
- For any policy/legislative questions, please contact:
  - Grace Eckel ([grace.eckel@state.co.us](mailto:grace.eckel@state.co.us))
  - Michele Stillwell Parvensky ([michele.stillwellparvensky@state.co.us](mailto:michele.stillwellparvensky@state.co.us))

# Hiring Updates

## Recently Hired

- Home Visiting Team Supervisor - Joyce Johnson starting March 20
- ECLC Administrator - Shannon Wilson starting March 20
- Controller - Laura Curnow started March 11

## Application Review / Interviewing Candidates

- Procurement & Contracts Unit Manager
- Policy & Leg Analyst
- Budget Director - extended verbal offer
- Business Technology Operations Supervisor - interviewing
- UPK Program Assistant - finishing up second round of interviews

## Posting This Week

- Compliance Manager
- Audit Manager
- LCO Specialist (5)

# CDEC Strategic Planning Updates

## Our Vision

Where we are going

All Colorado children, families, and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy, and thriving.

## Our Mission

Why we exist

To ensure the delivery of an inclusive, community-centered, data-driven, high quality, and equitable early childhood system that supports the care, education, and well-being of all Colorado's young children, their caregivers, and early childhood professionals in all settings.



# CDEC Values



## Equity

Provide equitable and inclusive services to meet the diverse needs of Colorado's young children and their caregivers



## Family & Community Centered

Incorporate the voices of all who engage with early childhood services into decision-making



## Excellence

Provide high-quality, comprehensive, well-coordinated early childhood services to ensure everyone has access to what they need to thrive



## Innovation

Courageously leverage strengths and partnerships to evaluate our current beliefs and practices and incubate and pilot innovative ideas that drive meaningful change



## Asset-Based

Value the diverse strengths, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in individuals and communities to ensure positive outcomes and make real social change

## WHAT We Will Achieve



### Goal 1: Access

Ensure all families have equitable access to affordable, high-quality early childhood services



### Goal 2: Workforce

Recruit, retain, and adequately compensate a diverse and qualified early childhood workforce



### Goal 3: Strengthen Families

Give caretakers the necessary opportunities, relationships, networks, and supports to raise their children successfully

## HOW We Will Get There



### Goal 4: EC System Sustainability

Ensure Colorado's early childhood system meets the state's evolving early childhood needs



### Goal 5: Maximize Funding

Leverage and align funding to strengthen the early childhood system and maximize impact



### Goal 6: Data-Informed Decision-Making

Prioritize actions that support a data-informed decision-making culture



### Goal 7: Workplace Excellence

Commit to actions that promote a culture of workplace excellence

# What Are We Working On?

- 1 Public Facing Strategic Plan - ASAP**
  - Create a simple, publicly-accessible visual representation of the CDEC Strategic Plan
- 2 High-Level Cross-Departmental Action Plans - April 2023**
  - Create high-level multi-year cross-department action plans (3-5 years)
  - Get out of working on Division-centric objectives and get into working on cross-department objectives
  - Use these to populate the “Workflow Management Tool” AND identify measures to track as part of our Performance Management Strategy.
- 3 Structured Strategic Planning Cycle & Performance Management Strategy - May/June 2023**
  - Establish an iterative annual strategic planning cycle to guide the work CDEC focuses on
  - Align annual Strategic Planning activities with Performance Management requirements
  - Allows us to use data to align efforts and make informed, collaborative decisions
- 4 Workflow Management Tool - July 2023**
  - Show real-time progress on the activities included in the action plans at a division, office, and department level
  - Slices data by goals, strategies, and/or values
  - Aligned with CDEC Performance Management Strategy

# Universal Preschool Program Progress and Updates





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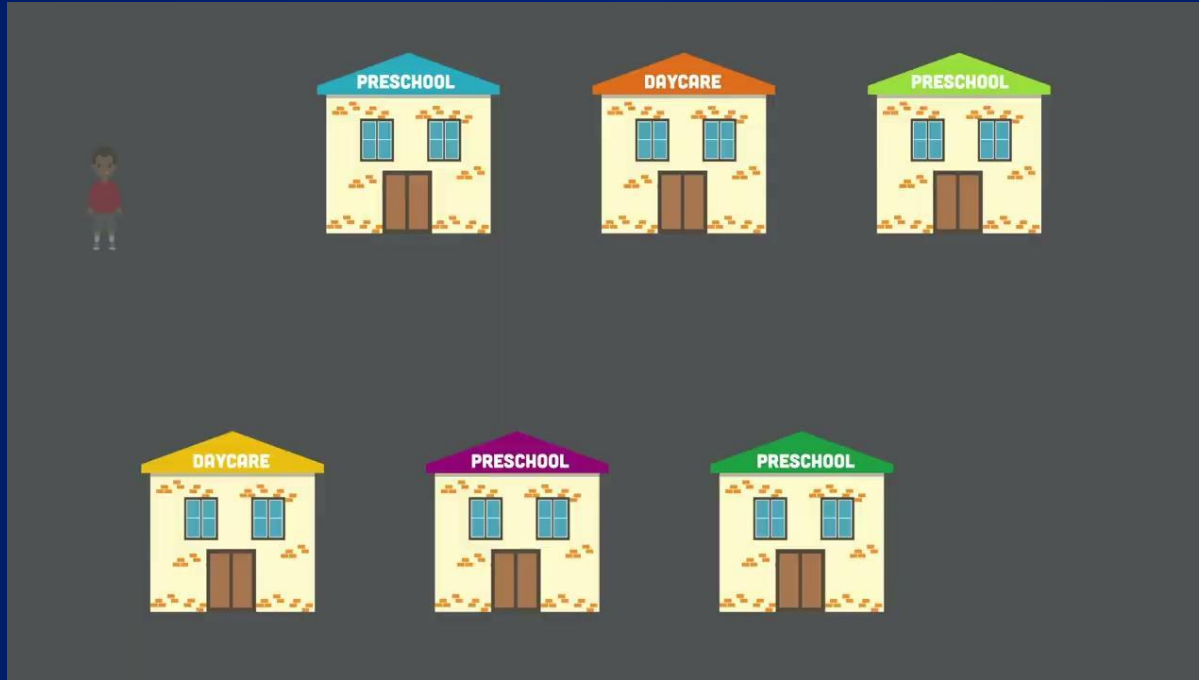
# Universal Preschool Colorado Updates

Michael Cooke, Transition Director  
March 2023



# Universal Preschool (UPK) Colorado

UPK Matching Video (Created to Guide Families on the Matching Process)



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yMlpE86KJFzau-1Zm0XUUFrq2-mXOXOZ/view>



# Universal Preschool (UPK) Colorado



## UPK Family Application Data

- Total number of four-year-olds matched = 26,335
- Families of four-year-olds matched to their 1st choice = 86.1%
- Families matched to any one of their choices = 94.3%
- Families without a match = 5.7%
- Total number of three-year-olds matched = 4,328

# Quality Standards

The Department shall develop, and the Executive Director shall establish by rule, the quality standards that each preschool provider must meet to receive funding through the Colorado Universal Preschool Program.

The quality standards must, at a minimum, reflect national and community-informed best practices with regard to school readiness, academic and cognitive development, healthy environments, social-emotional learning, and child and family outcomes.



# Teacher Development and Instructional Practices



## Professional development for teachers:

- Focused on improving teacher-child interactions and quality of instruction, including improving fidelity in implementing evidence-based curricula and student outcomes

## Instructional practice:

- Promote learning through developmentally appropriate practices that include a mix of structured activities and play
- Increase and support learning using instructional practices that build on previous learning
- Include a focus on age-appropriate classroom environments and ongoing informal assessments of learning
- Employ teaching strategies that have been shown to meet the needs of children who are dual-language learner

# Healthy Development

- Limit use of out-of-school suspension and expulsion
- Reflect best practices in early childhood mental health, including promoting access to early childhood mental health consultation
- Assist in connecting families to resources that offer voluntary vision, hearing, dental, and health screenings in their home language, and, upon parent request, referrals to appropriate health providers for enrolled children
- Assist in connecting families to resources that offer voluntary health and developmental screenings, which must include the use of valid and reliable screening tools that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate



# Family and Community Engagement



- Engage with parents and neighborhood leaders in a formal and meaningful way, including seeking input for policy and programming decisions
- Communicate with children's parents/families in their home language

# UPK Quality Standards Planning

## The planned phases of work include:

- Phase I - Research, review and stakeholdering for UPK Quality Standards Rule
- Phase II - Develop Cross-Department Standards, including workforce, professional learning credentials and pathways
- Phase III - Resource library, pathways, reporting plan

CDEC will announce details of each phase by March 31, 2023.



# THANK YOU!

Dawn Odean

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Michael Cooke

[m.michael.cooke@state.co.us](mailto:m.michael.cooke@state.co.us)





# Mythbusting and Questions



# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities



# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Stakeholder engagement will remain critical to the success of CDEC and the universal preschool program. Stakeholders can expect to remain informed and engaged through the following new and existing channels:

- CDEC Website has officially launched: [cdec.colorado.gov](https://cdec.colorado.gov)
- Sign up for the [CDEC Newsletter](#)
- Follow the CDEC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)
- [Feedback Form](#)
- Newsletter updates through the [Our Voice Newsletter](#)
  - Please sign up for *Our Voice* to continue to receive updates!
- Monthly town halls
  - Next Town Hall: Tuesday, April 11 at 5:30pm

Thank you!

