



Thursday, May 12, 2016
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Health Care Policy and Financing
303 East 17th Avenue, 11th Floor Conference, Denver 80203

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2016
- Provide an update from the Office of Early Childhood
- Provide updates from ECLC subcommittees
- Hear from the early childhood community during public comment
- Learn about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

8:15-9:00am	Post Legislative Session Presentation (Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign)
9:00-9:45am	Welcome and Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes from March 10, 2016• Member Appreciation• Commission Membership and Reauthorization Update• Commission Policies• 2016 Work Plan
9:45-10:05am	Office of Early Childhood Updates (Kristina Mueller)
10:05-10:25am	Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee Update (Letty Bass, Melissa Colman and Anna Jo Haynes)
10:25-10:35am	Early Childhood Communication Collaborative Update (Elsa Holguin and Tom Massey)
10:35-10:45am	Data Subcommittee Update (Charlotte Brantley)
10:45-11:10am	Public Comment
11:10-11:55am	Every Student Succeeds Act Update (Brad Bylsma, Stacy Wojdak-Goodman and Nancie Linville)
11:55-12:00pm	Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn

Note: Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service, or organization by the ECLC.

ECLC Meetings:

The next **ECLC Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, August 18, 2016 from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm- Health Care Policy and Financing, 303 East 17th Avenue, 11th Floor Conference, Denver 80203**

For information about future meeting dates, times and locations, visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org.

2016 Early Childhood Legislation & Budget Items

Contact: Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign, bill@coloradokids.org, 720-552-0002

Updated May 11, 2016

Legislation that Passed

1. **HB 16-1227** [Kagan & DelGrosso/Hill & Crowder] Exempt teen parents and domestic violence survivors from the requirement that they cooperate with child support enforcement as a condition of receiving CCCAP.
 - a. Proponents: Florence Crittenton Services, Colorado Children's Campaign, Mile High United Way, Clayton Early Learning, many others
 - b. Status: Passed House 58-7, Passed Senate 32-2 (1 absent) for a total of 90 'yes' votes and with 58 cosponsors. Bill signing at 2:00pm on 5/19/16 at Florence Crittenton Services
2. **SB 16-022** [Martinez Humenik, Merrifield/Pettersen, Singer, Wilson]: Eliminate the 10-county limit in the CCCAP "Cliff Effect" Pilot Program established in SB 14-003 (ECSRLC bill)
 - a. Proponents: Bell Policy Center, Colorado Children's Campaign, Clayton Early Learning, CCLP, EPIC
 - b. Status: Passed Senate 25-10, Passed full House 44-19 (2 excused), Signed by Governor
3. **HB 16-1242** [Hamner/Lambert] Supplemental budget request for CDHS includes a doubling of Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists in Colorado from 17 to 34 FTE
 - a. Proponents: CDHS, Colorado Children's Campaign
 - b. Status: Passed House 40-24 (1 excused), Passed Senate 35-0, Signed by Governor
4. **HB 16-1183** [Buckner/Crowder] / **SB 16-212** [Crowder/Buckner] Child Care Assistance Program 12-month Eligibility/Reduced Reporting Requirements alignment with CCDBG
 - a. Proponents: CDHS, Colorado Children's Campaign, Bell Policy Center, Clayton Early Learning
 - b. HB 1183 Status: Passed House, but amended in the Senate on 2nd Reading to allow counties to spend CCCAP dollars on quality initiatives; Went to Conference Committee and could not be resolved
 - c. SB 212 Status: Passed Senate 32-3, Passed House 45-20, Sent to the Governor
5. **HB 16-1423**: Comprehensive Student Data Privacy Overhaul
 - a. Passed both chambers unanimously and sent to the Governor
6. **HB 16-1425**: Eliminating immunization record requests for temporary child care at ski resorts brought by Ski Country
 - a. Passed both chambers unanimously and sent to the Governor

Legislation that Did Not Pass

1. **HB 16-1196** [Pettersen & Rankin/Johnston] Child Savings Accounts
 - a. Proponents: CDHS, Colorado Children's Campaign, Bell Policy Center, EPIC
 - b. \$100,000 in repurposed General Fund to establish a Children's Savings Account Pilot Program for up to 2,000 low-income preschool-aged children per year for 3 years to start a \$50 deposit in a college savings account.
 - c. Status: Passed the House 38-26 with bipartisan support, but died in Senate State Affairs 3-2
2. **HB 16-1002** [Buckner, Fields/Kerr]: Allowing parents to take unpaid leave to participate in children's school-related activities.
 - a. Proponent: 9to5 Colorado and others
 - b. Status: Passed House 36-29, Died in Senate State Affairs 3-2
3. **HB 16-1164** [Pabon/Aguilar & Martinez Humenik] Requiring immunization exemptions be submitted to CDPHE rather than to schools and utilize a single form
 - a. Proponent: CDPHE
 - b. Status: Passed House Health, Insurance, and Environment 7-6; Postponed at the request of the sponsor

4. **HB 16-1050** [Pettersen, Singer/Merrifield]: Create a task force to coordinate multiple initiatives in a diversity of state agencies to better provide child care assistance to individuals pursuing higher education/postsecondary training (ECSRLC bill)
 - a. Proponent: Colorado Center on Law and Policy
 - b. Status: Passed House 35-29; Died in Senate State Affairs 3-2
5. **HB 16-1045** [Singer, Pettersen/Merrifield, Kefalas]: Removing the trigger of new revenue and making the state Child Tax Credit active immediately (ECSRLC bill)
 - a. Proponent: Colorado Fiscal Institute
 - b. Status: Died in House Finance 8-3
6. **HB 16-1022** [Wilson] Full-day Kindergarten funding/**SB 16-023** [Kerr, Merrifield, Aguilar, Donovan, Guzman, Jones, Kefalas, Newell, Todd, Ulibarri]: Refer a ballot question to authorize retaining funds above TABOR cap to fund full-day kindergarten
 - a. Status: SB 16-023 died in Senate State Affairs; HB 16-1022 passed House Education with bipartisan support but died in House Appropriations
7. **HB 16-1420** [Hullingerhorst/Crowder]: Converting the Hospital Provider Fee into an “Enterprise Fund” that would make the revenue exempt from TABOR limits
 - a. Status: Passed the House with bipartisan support 39-26; died in Senate Finance 3-2

Budget Items Affecting Early Childhood (HB 16-1405 and supporting bills)

1. Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP): Tiered Reimbursement, Provider Rates, and HB 14-1317 implementation
 - c. 2016-17 Governor’s Budget Request (Page 6-3 of CDHS’s Schedule 3):
 - i. FY15-16 Initial Appropriation: \$87,293,241
 - ii. Governor’s FY16-17 Budget Request: \$88,697,308
 - iii. Final Budget (reversing provider rate adjustment): \$89,593,241
2. Cliff Effect Pilot Program (established in SB 14-003)
 - d. 2016-17 Governor’s Budget Request (Page 6-4 of CDHS’s Schedule 3):
 - i. FY 15-16 Initial Appropriation: \$1,269,453 (\$1.2M for program, \$69,453 for personnel)
 - ii. Final Budget: \$1,269,453
3. Child care licensing ratios (CDHS Request R-04)
 - e. \$673,524 in federal CCDF funds for 9.2 contract specialists and 0.8 FTE supervisor; annualizes to \$735,527 and 10.0 contract and 1.0 FTE in 17-18 and beyond to increase the frequency of licensing inspections to meet new federal regulations of one annual, unannounced visit per year.
4. Colorado Shines/PDIS sustainability funding (CDHS Request R-07)
 - f. \$1,522,936 in federal Child Care and Development Fund spending authority and 7.3 FTE to continue child care quality initiative including Colorado Shines (QRIS) and PDIS. Annualizes to \$3,066,241 and 14.6 FTE in 2017-18 and beyond.
5. Early Intervention Caseload Growth (CDHS Request R-05)
 - g. \$3.8M in total funds (including \$2.2M General Fund) for EI direct services to serve an additional 467 eligible infants and toddlers in the program (6.0% caseload growth)
6. Colorado Preschool Program/Early Childhood At-Risk Enhancement (ECARE) slots
 - h. Maintained current authorization of 20,160 half-day preschool slots and ECARE funds an additional 8,200 slots for school districts to serve eligible children through half-day or full-day preschool or full-day kindergarten

7. Other Budget Items of Note

- a. \$2.5 million for the Colorado Family Planning Initiative, including access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARCs) at Title X clinics
- b. Increase for Nurse Home Visiting of \$6.7 million (from \$16.6 million to \$23.4 million) that will expand access and offset anticipated declines in Tobacco Master Settlement revenue in future years
- c. \$50,000 and 1.0 FTE for the Office of State Planning and Budget to develop, implement, and oversee “Pay for Success” contracting
- d. One-year maintenance of primary care rate bump for many (but not all) services, including health and risk assessments, screening for pregnancy related depression under a child’s Medicaid ID, adolescent depression screening, and smoking cessation codes
- e. K-12 “Negative Factor” reduced by \$50 million, and per pupil funding increased by \$112 to \$7,425 (CPP = .5 of per pupil funding) but shortfall from the funding formula is at \$831 million per year
- f. State reserves dropped from 6.5% to 5.6% (see HB 16-1419)
- g. Hospital payments cut by \$146 million
- h. Highway Users Transportation Fund authorized transfers cut by \$50 million
- i. No TABOR rebates in 2016-17, but rebates are anticipated in excess of \$200 million in 2017-18

General Items of Note

- Legislative Council did not approve the Early Childhood School Readiness Legislative Commission as an interim committee
- Legislative Council approved an interim committee on the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA – the replacement to No Child Left Behind)

Anticipated Legislation in 2017

1. Addressing suspensions and expulsions of children under the age of 8: Data collection, restrictions on the use of exclusionary discipline, and additional supports to mitigate the use of these practices
 - a. Proponents: Padres & Jovenes Unidos, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Together Colorado, Special Education advocates, NAACP, others
2. Allowing counties to provide quality initiatives within a county’s CCCAP block grant
 - a. Proponent: Weld County



Thursday, March 10, 2016

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Health Care Policy and Financing

303 East 17th Avenue, 11th Floor Conference, Denver 80203

ECLC Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance: Letty Bass, Charlotte Brantley, Doug Clements, Melissa Colsman, Heather Craiglow, Thomas Davidson, Barb Grogan, Anna Jo Haynes, Elsa Holguin, Julie Krow, Katie Mason, Tom Massey, Kristina Mueller, Cindy Schulz, Mary Anne Snyder, and Susan Steele

Commissioners Excused: Anne Anderson, Charlotte Ciano, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, Richard Garcia, Pat Hamill, Gerri Gomez Howard, Anna Robinson, Karen Trierweiler, and Amy Wineland

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the meeting minutes from February 18, 2016
- Provide an update from the Office of Early Childhood
- Provide updates on the *Framework in Action*, Early Childhood Communication Collaborative and Data Committee
- Learn about Children's Savings Accounts and the Colorado Child Care Development Fund State Plan
- Provide an update on early childhood policy
- Hear from the early childhood community during public comment

Welcome and Business Meeting:

Commission Co-chair Grogan called the meeting to order and introduced the new ECLC Director, Kristina Mueller. She thanked Katie Mason for her work during the interim. Kristina explained that she will schedule individual meetings with Commissioners to understand their vision of the ECLC and its future. She currently serves as a CDHS County Liaison. Kristina starts March 21.

Minutes: Commission Co-chair Grogan moved to approve the February 18, 2016 minutes. Minutes were approved as printed and distributed to the Commission.

2016 Strategic Plan: Commission Co-chair Grogan reviewed the draft 2016 Strategic Plan. The 2016 Strategic Plan was developed based on the statutory duties, continuing projects from 2015, duties as required by early childhood state advisory council role, and future priorities listed in the ECLC Annual. Commissioners discussed allowing committees to review the document. Committee co-chairs will address any changes at the Executive Committee Meeting.

Hospital Provider Fee Vote: Katie explained that under Open Meeting Laws, the Commission is unable to conduct electronic votes. If the Commission would like to conduct votes outside of a meeting, they may schedule a conference call, but must provide public notification and an opportunity for public comment.

Commission Co-chair Grogan moved that ***“The Early Childhood Leadership Commission supports in concept and principle any reforms offered to the state budget by the Executive Branch or the State Legislature that will enhance and provide crucial access to the early childhood programs and services in Colorado that have proven themselves to be of benefit to the children and parents they serve, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and accountability to the citizens of Colorado.”*** Melissa Colson abstained. Commissioners discussed concern over the broad wording. The motion passed 8-0. The following Commissioners voted in favor: Elsa Holguin, Julie Krow, Charlotte Brantley, Thomas Davidson, Heather Craiglow, Barb Grogan, Anna Jo Haynes, and Tom Massey. The following Commissioners abstained: Letty Bass, Melissa Colson, and Susan Steele.

Public Comment and ECLC Meeting Presentation Policy Discussion: ECLC staff is developing a policy that will be discussed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Grant: The ECLC has been asked to participate in the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Grant (ECCS). The ECCS Impact State Advisory Team will be a subcommittee of the Program Quality and Alignment Committee of the ECLC. The ECLC will delegate the oversight responsibilities of the ECCS Impact Program to the ECCS Impact State Advisory Team. The State Advisory Team will solicit input from and provide updates to the PQAC on a quarterly basis via presentations at their committee meetings. The grant is competitive and requires specific outcomes. Commission Co-chair Grogan moved that ***the ECLC oversee the “State Advisory Team that provides leadership in implementing the policies and practices necessary to carry out systems work in their state organizations and recommends state-wide system change as a result of the ECCS COIIN results” and will write letters of support for the grant.*** All voted in favor. Katie will reach out to Commissioners for letters of support.

Colorado Child Care Development Fund State Plan Update:

Erin Mewhinney, Director, Early Care and Learning-OEC, presented an update about the Colorado Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. The focus of CCDF policy has changed from strictly reaching self-sufficiency to focusing on continuity and quality of child care. The new Plan includes a number of policy changes including: equal access to care, 12-month eligibility, consumer education, social emotional support, targeted quality investments, and health and safety requirements. Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge Grant funds have supported implementing a number of these requirements. Ensuring equal access is a challenge for Colorado in that each county has different eligibility and control. If counties opt-out, they have to develop a county plan that ensures equal access to care.

Erin then provided an update about Colorado Shines, PDIS and CCCAP cost modeling. She addressed tiered reimbursement rates.

Office of Early Childhood Updates:

Mary Anne Snyder explained that the OEC received appropriations for all legislative budget requests. She suggested that Colorado may receive a no-cost extension of RTT-ECLG. The OEC continues its work

around microloans. The OEC released a request for proposal to select a single, qualified entity to fulfill the role of SafeCare Colorado Program Intermediary. CDHS also awarded family support services grants to 10 family resource centers across the state, helping these facilities enhance coordination and family case management. Mary Anne shared the OEC's success in meeting its "Wildly Important Goal" of increasing the number of children, under five years old, who utilize CCCAP and are enrolled in a child care facility rated as Levels 3-5 in Colorado Shines. She explained steps taken to reach 39.2%.

Data Committee:

Charlotte Brantley provided an update on the ECLC Data Committee. Department staffs from CDHS, CDE, CDPHE, and HCPF have provided background on agency data initiatives. The committee has also heard updates about the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership data development action team. At its next meeting, the committee will finalize information sharing about data initiatives and will begin to determine the ECLC's role. Commissioners discussed the need to link the Data Committee with PQAC.

Early Childhood Communication Collaborative Update:

Elsa Holguin and Tom Massey reported on the work of the Early Childhood Communication Collaborative. There have been numerous meetings with various stakeholders including the ECLC Executive Committee, the ECCC Steering Committee, and the advisory partners. They highlighted the evaluation piece of the project, and explained that an Evaluation Workgroup has been identified. Early Milestones and the OEC have been exploring opportunities to add this work to existing OEC contracts.

Early Childhood Legislation Update:

Bill Jaeger provided updates about the following bills:

- **HB 16-1227-** Exempt teen parents and domestic violence survivors from the requirement that they cooperate with child support enforcement as a condition of receiving CCCAP
 - Proponents met with counties to address concerns over current legislative language. An amendment will allow counties to meet with teen parents about the importance of child support.
- **HB 16-1183-** Child Care Assistance Program 12-month Eligibility/Reduced Reporting Requirements alignment with CCDBG
 - Mary Anne is working with audit staff to review audit policy adherence.
- **HB 16-1196-** Child Savings Accounts (Originally CDHS Request R-06)
 - Commissioners encouraged involving EPIC as it has a business focus and supports this pilot program.
- **SB 16-022-** Eliminate the 10-county limit in the CCCAP "Cliff Effect" Pilot Program established in SB 14-003
 - This bill passed both legislative chambers and is waiting for Governor's signature.

Stakeholders continue to discuss suspensions and expulsions. They are considering creating a task force to explore this issue and legislation for the 2017 session.

The State Board of Education made a decision about kindergarten readiness assessments. After reviewing five options for system reporting, the Board decided that districts would submit only aggregate readiness information not by domain, but by number of domains in which students demonstrate readiness. Individual student data will not be collected by CDE and parents may opt into reporting. Classrooms and districts may still collect raw data.

Building a Better Colorado has filed three statewide ballot initiatives, one of which will allow the state to retain funds over the TABOR limit.

Public Comment:

Kendra Dunn, Child Maltreatment Prevention Director-OEC, spoke to the Commission about Child Abuse Prevention Month. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the Child Abuse Prevention Month Rally at the Capitol on April 1. She highlighted the community toolkit. She also informed the Commission about the development of the state's Child Abuse Prevention Plan, which is a coordinated project with Chapin Hall researchers and the federal government. It will be unveiled in September. They are in the process of convening a data task group which will create a shared data/indicator crosswalk. Susan Steele requested this be shared with the Data Committee.

Bruce Atchison, Director, Early Learning Institute at Education Commission of the States, encouraged the Commission to educate itself about the early learning provisions of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The US Department of Education and US Department of Health and Human Services have not promulgated rules yet. Early learning requirements are found throughout the federal statute. Primary administration of the preschool development grants have been moved from the US Department of Education into the Department of Health and Human Services.

Laurie Zeller, Rocky Mountain PBS, and Jean McSpadden and Christopher Price, Bright by Three, presented about Bright by Text. Bright by Text is a text message-based support to parents of children under three. Bright by Text has developed 260 text messages with research-based child development information created by physicians and experts. Rocky Mountain PBS created interstitials to promote the program. The group provided a map of users as well as a performance dashboard to highlight program data.

Alissa Rausch, University of Colorado-Denver, encouraged the Commission to support inclusion of students with disabilities and to understand the data behind compelling stories. She referred to current legislative and stakeholder discussions about suspension and expulsion—explaining that these methods are exclusionary.

Children's Savings Accounts Presentation:

Keri Batchelder, Two Generation Manager, educated the Commission about the Aspire to College Colorado Pilot Program. The program provides children's savings accounts to low-income preschool-age children. The program is supported by a public-private partnership that is expected to increase low

income children's college aspirations and enrollment in higher education. The state will reappropriate budget savings to make a \$50 contribution to a college savings account administered by CollegeInvest. The pilot program may serve up to 2000 eligible children per year for up to three years. Through private donations the pilot program may provide matching dollars for family savings, bonuses to encourage regular savings, family financial education, and an evaluation of the long-term impact of the pilot program. An evaluation will be conducted by the University of Colorado–Denver Evaluation Center. The program will be piloted with six Head Start providers. Please see handout for more information.

Framework in Action Update:

Letty Bass provided an update on the next steps of the *Framework* project. As this is one of the Commission's statutory duties and is in the 2016 Strategic Plan, the work is continuing with a small planning group. Future work will be in a dynamic format that allows all groups to contribute. The next steps will also include a website, which would be piloted using state agency initiatives. Commissioners discussed whether this should be referred to as *Framework in Action*, funding challenges, and how to address data and outcomes related to the *Framework*. The Data Committee co-chairs will work with the small planning group.

Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn:

Commission Co-chairs Grogan and Haynes requested that the Executive Committee meet to discuss the implications of ESSA. Katie will work on scheduling a meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

ECLC Meetings:

The next **ECLC Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, May 12 from 9-12am at Health Care Policy and Financing: 303 East 17th Avenue, 11th floor Conference Room, Denver 80203**

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ECLC Commissioners and Representation

Name	Statutory Representation
Anne Anderson	Representative “of statewide foundation...involved in early childhood issues”
Letty Bass	Representative “of statewide foundation...involved in early childhood issues”
Charlotte Brantley	Provider “of early childhood supports and services”
Charlotte Ciano	Representative “of school districts”
Doug Clements	Representative “of statewide...nonprofit organization involved in early childhood issues”
Melissa Colman	Designee of “the State Department of Education”
Heather Craiglow	“The Head Start State Collaboration Director for Colorado”
Thomas Davidson	Representative “of local government groups”
Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia	Designee of “the State Department of Higher Education”
Richard Garcia	Representative “of statewide...nonprofit organization involved in early childhood issues”
Gerri Gomez Howard	Member “of the business community”
Barb Grogan	Member “of the business community”
Anna Jo Haynes	Provider “of early childhood supports and services”
Elsa Holguin	Representative “of statewide foundation...involved in early childhood issues”
Julie Krow	Designee of “the State Department of Human Services”
Tom Massey	Designee of “the State Department of Health Care Policy and Financing”
Anna Robinson	Person “whose famil[y] receive[s] early childhood supports or services”
Susan Steele	Representative “of statewide foundation...involved in early childhood issues”
Karen Trierweiler	Designee of “the State Department of Public Health and Environment”
Amy Wineland	Representative “of the local public health community”

Gray= Reappointment needed for July 1, 2016 term

Yellow= Designee Appointment or position that should be filled by someone meeting the statutory criteria

Red= Resignation, new appointment needed for July 1, 2016 term



MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Commission is to ensure and advance a comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children from birth to eight years of age using data to improve decision-making, alignment, and coordination among federally-and state-funded services and programs for pregnant women and young children and their families. This Commission shall serve as the “State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry” as designated in the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law (P.L.) 110-134*. Statutory provisions applicable to the Commission are found in Article 6.2, Title 26, of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

POLICY

1. Meetings and Conduct of Commission Business

- 1.1 The Commission shall meet bimonthly at the direction of the co-chairs and as often as necessary to fulfill its duties. C.R.S. §§ 26-6.2-103(4).
- 1.2 Records will be kept of motions made, moving and seconding members, abstentions, and votes taken. Whenever possible, consensus shall be used as the operational decision making process. However, the rules contained in the most current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised*, shall govern all Commission meetings except in instances of conflict between the rules of order and the provisions of law.
- 1.3 A simple majority of the voting members of the Commission constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members who cannot attend a meeting in person may teleconference and be considered present and part of the quorum.

2. Committee Formation

- 2.1 Commission membership is outlined in Article 6.2, Title 26, of the Colorado Revised Statutes.
 - **Voting Members.** Only members of the Commission are permitted to participate in the Commission’s formal decision-making process; specifically making motions, seconds of motions, discussion of formal motions, and votes.
 - **Non-Voting Members.** The Director of the Office of Early Childhood in the Department of Human Services serves as a non-voting member of the Commission.
 - **Terms of Office for Appointed Commission Members.** All appointed members will serve three-year terms, unless a member is appointed to fulfill the remainder of a term vacated by a previous Commissioner.

- **Term Limitations.** Appointed members are limited to serving two consecutive full terms, in addition to any remaining portion of a term, vacated by a previously appointed Commissioner.
- 2.2 Members may be subject to removal for failure to attend full Commission meetings. If a member fails to attend three Commission meetings, during the course of any given fiscal year, without an excused absence, it is incumbent upon the ECLC Director to recommend to the Governor and to the co-chairs to terminate the individual's appointment to the Commission.
- A leave of absence will be granted to a Commission member for personal or family related medical reasons or due to a job change.
- 2.3 Commission members may not give his or her proxy to another. A Commission member may designate a substitute to take notes and add information, when appropriate, but a substitute may not cast a vote.



SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP POLICY

PURPOSE

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is a high-level, interagency, public-private leadership commission. Its role as the state advisory council requires the ECLC to be a statewide leader, subject matter expert and champion of best and promising practices throughout the state. The ECLC is the trusted and proactive champion for high quality, outcome-focused learning and development, health and well-being, and family support and education. The ECLC's focus rests upon programs and services for pregnant women and children from birth through age eight in Colorado.

The ECLC co-chairs may appoint subcommittees and working groups to assist the ECLC in its work or to address specific objectives.

ECLC subcommittees and working groups are the mechanisms to gather broad stakeholder input as it relates to the ECLC's stated purpose and defined priorities.

The purpose of this policy is to guide the development of subcommittees and working groups and to ensure that the ECLC provides stakeholders with a clear, consistent, and collaborative method to participate in subcommittees and working groups.

POLICY

1. Definitions

- 1.1 Subcommittee: an advisory group of diverse representatives formed under the direction of the ECLC to undertake specified focus areas of the ECLC's work. Subcommittees are generally permanent entities but can be disbanded if the specific area of focus is no longer needed.
- 1.2 Working Group: a diverse group of people formed under the direction of a subcommittee to accomplish a certain goal or objective. Working groups disband once the goal or objective has been completed.

2. Committee Formation

- 2.1 The ECLC co-chairs, with input from the ECLC, subcommittee and working group co-chairs, and ECLC staff, shall define the objectives, performance measures and timelines for each established ECLC subcommittee and working group.
- 2.2 The role of each subcommittee or working group is expressed in a goal/purpose statement.

2.3 The ECLC co-chairs and the subcommittee or working group co-chairs shall determine the membership of the group, which should include diverse, cross-sector representation and subject matter experts from the community.

3. Subcommittee and Working Group co-chairs

3.1 Subcommittee or Working Group co-chairs are:

- identified by the ECLC,
- serve based on their ECLC term, and
- are responsible to:
 - conduct the affairs of the group,
 - facilitate discussion and bring forward information during both Executive Subcommittee sessions, and ECLC Meetings, and
 - provide guidance to subcommittees and working groups who report to individual ECLC subcommittees; subcommittee co-chairs are not required to participate on groups that convene as a working group of the subcommittee for which they chair.

4. Membership

4.1 Membership in the subcommittees and working groups, determined by the ECLC co-chairs and subcommittee or working group co-chairs, should include diverse, cross-sector representation and subject matter experts from the community. Stakeholders and members of the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend subcommittee and working group meetings.

5. Voting and Quorum

5.1 Subcommittees and working groups make recommendations to advise the ECLC on specific objectives established by the ECLC. Motions made during the subcommittees or working groups shall be documented and shared with ECLC members.

5.2 Only subcommittee or working group members are permitted to participate in the subcommittee or working group's formal decision-making process; specifically making motions, seconds of motions, discussion of formal motions, and votes.

5.3 The majority of present subcommittee or working group members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at subcommittee meetings.



PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

As Colorado's state advisory council for early childhood, the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) recognizes the value of public comment and allows stakeholders to express their views and share information with the ECLC. All ECLC meetings are open to the public and include an opportunity for public comment.

The purpose of this policy is to develop a fair, transparent and equitable process for members of the public to provide comments and information to the ECLC, and to ensure the ECLC operates in a consistent, balanced, and transparent manner.

POLICY

1. Presentations

- 1.1 Presentations can be shared with to the full ECLC by stakeholders, organizations, Commissioners, and members of the public. Presentations are approved prior to each meeting by the ECLC Executive Subcommittee, and the allotted time for each presentation is noted on the meeting agenda.
- 1.2 Requests to Make a Presentation - Members of the public who wish to request to present to the ECLC can do so by contacting the ECLC staff. ECLC staff will refer the requestor to the appropriate subcommittee or working group co-chairs to coordinate an initial presentation to that group. Following the presentation, the subcommittee or working group can recommend the presentation be made to the entire ECLC by contacting ECLC staff with their recommendation. ECLC staff will collect recommendations for presentations from all subcommittees and working groups. Prior to each ECLC meeting, the ECLC Executive Subcommittee will review all requests for presentations and determine agenda items for the ECLC Meeting based upon current work of the ECLC. The ECLC Executive Subcommittee, at its discretion and under special circumstances, may approve presentations for the ECLC meetings without an initial subcommittee or working group presentation.
- 1.3 Presentation Procedures - Presenters will receive confirmation of the date, time, location, and amount of time allocated for their presentation ahead of the meeting from ECLC staff. Presenters should provide materials for distribution at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.
- 1.4 Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service, or organization by the ECLC.

2. Public Comment

- 2.1 Time will be allotted at each ECLC Meeting for comments from the public. The ECLC, at its discretion, may limit the amount of time allotted for public comment.
- 2.2 Public Comment Procedures - Individuals may contact ECLC staff prior to a meeting to request time during the public comment period; a sign-up sheet will also be provided at the start of each meeting for stakeholders and members of the public to register their request to offer public comment during the meeting. Each speaker may take up to five (5) minutes to make his or her comments. This time constraint may be modified by the ECLC co-Chairs. If the public comment period ends before all parties have had a chance to speak, ECLC staff will add the names of speakers to the following ECLC Meeting agenda. Speakers will be advised when they have one minute remaining.
- 2.3 Any opinions, advice, statements, services, offers, or other information or content expressed or made available by stakeholders or members of the public during public comment does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the ECLC.

2016 ECLC Work Plan

GOAL 1 Statutory Duties: CRS 26-6.2-103 through CRS 26-6.2-106

- > Monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of a quality, cohesive professional and career advancement system; high-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and the sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability among early childhood programs.
- > Develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning increasing children's school readiness.
- > Develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs.
- > Develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning promoting family and community engagement in children's educational development.

ECLC priorities (as per the Governing Charter):

- > Assist in the successful establishment of the OEC under the Department of Human Services
- > Develop, implement & track work underway: new QRIS implementation, Early Childhood Professional Competencies, Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, Results Matter, & Infant/Toddler Policy Agenda
- > Implement an external communications plan, including messaging platform, campaign strategies and media outreach

GOAL 1: Advise and assist the Office of Early Childhood

	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost
	Support an effective and high-quality implementation of Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge Grant																	
		Participate in federal site visits													Stacey Kennedy- Child Care Quality Initiatives Director	Not yet started - as needed	Participated last August; no site visit scheduled for 2016	
		Provide input on evaluation of QRIS/Colorado Shines including review of first year Colorado Shines implementation data to be proactive champions of Colorado's nationally recognized model													Stacey Kennedy- Child Care Quality Initiatives Director / Data Subcommittee	In progress	Provided input; in progress to start review of 1st year of data	
		Support strategies to sustain initiatives funded by the RTT- ELCG													Executive Subcommittee/ Full ECLC	Ongoing		

GOAL 1: Advise and assist the Office of Early Childhood																			
	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost	
	Provide input on strategies to align and coordinate programs and services prenatal through age eight																		
		Review and make recommendations on the Child Care Development Block Grant State Plan													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	DONE	ECLC provided feedback on the CCDBG State Plan		
		Identify opportunities, barriers and gaps to aligning and coordinating programs and services using the revised <i>Early Childhood Colorado Framework</i>													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	In progress	Moving forward - developing plan for website, alignment in programs, etc. Have encouraged use of template.		
		Advise on strategies to better align new and existing programs, policy and funding within the OEC to increase sustainable service delivery methods													Executive Subcommittee/ Full ECLC	Ongoing			
	Consider and recommend waivers from state regulations on behalf of early childhood councils														Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	As requested by councils	Currently, no councils have requested waivers for review		
		Continue to review and revise the existing process for councils to request a waiver													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	Ongoing	Currently, no councils have requested waivers for review		
		Review aggregate data on council waiver requests annually to look for emerging trends across councils													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee/ Data Subcommittee	Ongoing	Currently, no councils have requested waivers for review		
		Consider whether or not this provision should be included in the reauthorization of the ECLC in the 2017 session													Program Quality and Alignment Committee, Reauthorization Working Group, Executive Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Not yet started	This should be part of the reauthorization conversations		

> Advise and make recommendations to the state department and other relevant early childhood entities concerning implementation of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework.																			
ECLC priorities (as per the Governing Charter):																			
> Increase engagement with statewide partners (public, entities, businesses, nonprofits, and volunteers) for a holistic approach to serving children 0-8 across the Framework																			
> Mobilize a statewide movement for early childhood, from grassroots community support to state-level initiatives																			
GOAL 2: Champion the 2015 Early Childhood Colorado Framework																			
	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost	
	Support implementation of the <i>Framework</i>																		
		Use the <i>Framework</i> as a communication tool to explain the comprehensive early childhood system													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Ongoing	PQAC will bring updates to full ECLC in summer 2016		
		Encourage stakeholders and partners to think about and identify where their efforts fit into the <i>Framework</i>													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Ongoing	PQAC will bring updates to full ECLC in summer 2016		
	Consider next steps related to implementation of and support for the <i>Framework</i>																		
		Reach out to partners to learn more about what strategies and tools are needed to support implementation of the <i>Framework</i> throughout Colorado													TBD Cross Sector Working Group, Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	In Progress	A small group has been meeting to discuss the plan for the next steps of the Framework		
		Develop a plan for Phase 2 of the <i>Framework</i> , which includes expanding the website to highlight programs, initiatives AND THEIR OUTCOMES across the state													TBD Cross Sector Working Group, Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	In Progress	A small group has developed a draft plan for the next steps of the Framework		
		Identify public private resources to support next steps													TBD Cross Sector Working Group, Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	Not yet started			

GOAL 3 Statutory Duties: CRS 26-6.2-103 through CRS 26-6.2-106 > Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children. > Consider and recommend waivers from state regulations on behalf of early childhood councils as provided in section 26-6.5-104 (1).																		
ECLC priorities (as per the Governing Charter): > Support the OEC and its staff, including realigning programs, integrating services, supporting a statewide roll-out campaign and championing the transition overall																		
GOAL 3: Promote the alignment of services and supports within the OEC and across State Agencies.																		
	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost
	Ensure effective rollout of IMPLEMENTATION of COLORADO Project LAUNCH																	
		Continue to support Project LAUNCH with strategic thinking to ensure grant deliverables are achieved and communities are successful													Project LAUNCH Leadership, Young Child Wellness Council	In Progress via Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	Meeting update provided at 4/15 PQAC meeting	
	Advise on strategies to better align new and existing programs and policy and funding within the OEC AND ACROSS STATE AGENCIES to increase sustainable service delivery methods (including 2015 guidelines for CCDBG reauthorization)														Executive Subcommittee/ Full ECLC	In Progress	Ongoing efforts through updates and discussions at PQAC meetings	

GOAL 4 Statutory Duties: CRS 26-6.2-103 through CRS 26-6.2-106

- > Make recommendations to the appropriate committees of reference of the general assembly and to government and non- profit agencies and policy boards changes to enhance the alignment and provision of services and supports to young children.
- > Assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children, including securing funding and additional investments for services and supports for children and their families.

ECLC priorities (as per the Governing Charter):

- > Set a statewide vision for early childhood in Colorado and influence a common policy agenda
- > Secure additional funding and influence new investments in early childhood efforts

GOAL 4: Serve as the statewide leader for early childhood: promote sound early childhood policy and increase coordination and collaboration throughout the system

OBJECTIVE STRATEGIES		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost
	Champion a statewide vision for early childhood in Colorado													Full ECLC/All Subcommittees	In progress		
	Develop strategies to leverage and align a variety of state-level plans that support components of the comprehensive early childhood system with a particular focus on working group projects: professional development, prenatal to age three, young child wellness, and implementation of Colorado Shines in school districts													Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	The Pre-Natal to 3 Working Group provided information and guidance to PQAC; their work concluded with development of P-3 framework alignment document	The PQAC receives updates and provides direction on alignment on a variety of statewide systems-level plans	
	Update the Colorado Early Learning Professional Development System Plan originally created in 2010 to complement the Framework													PD Working Group as a working group of Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee	In Progress	Meeting update provided at 4/15 PQAC meeting	
	Promote public comment during ECLC and subcommittee meetings as a opportunity to learn from the field, and inform strategies to leverage opportunities and identify gaps/barriers													Full ECLC/All Subcommittees	In Progress		

GOAL 4: Serve as the statewide leader for early childhood: promote sound early childhood policy and increase coordination and collaboration throughout the system

	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost
		Partner with the 2017 Early Childhood School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC)																
		Continue to provide information and raise awareness of early childhood best practices during ECSRLC meetings													Executive Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Ongoing		
		Participate in special meetings to discuss potential ideas for early childhood policy													Executive Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Ongoing		
		Provide guidance on potential ideas for early childhood policy													Executive Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Ongoing		
		Advocate to ensure early childhood issues are central to the Governor's platform																
		Participate in the Lt. Governor's Literacy Tour to ensure strong connections to early childhood													TBD	Not yet started	Wait to see if new LG will continue Literacy Tour	
		Seize opportunities to engage with the Governor and Lt. Governor and promote the importance of early childhood													Executive Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Ongoing		
		Develop a relationship with the "new" Lt. Governor once appointed by the Governor; no later than 6/30/16													Executive Subcommittee, Full ECLC	Not yet started		
		Develop and present a 2017 ECLC Annual Report to the Education and Health and Human Services Committees in both Senate and House													Executive Subcommittee, Subcommittee co-chairs and ECLC Staff	Not yet started		

GOAL 4: Serve as the statewide leader for early childhood: promote sound early childhood policy and increase coordination and collaboration throughout the system

	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost
	Guide the implementation of early childhood statutes																	
		Engage in opportunities to provide information and raise awareness on comprehensive early childhood services, initiatives, and programs which may include public comment.													Full ECLC	Ongoing		
		Submit additional recommendations to the Colorado State Board of Human Services for consideration in a second rule package to support the continued implementation of HB 14-1317													Legislative Implementation Task Force	DONE!	This was completed in February 2016	
		Advocate for the importance of kindergarten readiness assessments as a way to support children’s school success													Full ECLC	Ongoing		
		Develop a Data Vision Statement for the ECLC													Data Subcommittee	In Progress	Draft in progress	
	Create a mechanism to promote the continued sharing of tools, resources and strategies to improve the coordination of communication efforts within Colorado																	
		Convene leaders at all levels to provide guidance and input on the Early Childhood Communication Collaborative effort													Early Childhood Communication Collaborative	In Progress		
		Encourage all who connect with new parents to incorporate parent and caregiver engagement strategies and messages into their programs and outreach													Early Childhood Communication Collaborative	In Progress		
		Develop a collective identifier similar to “Colorado Proud” or “Got Milk” to align existing and emerging parent and caregiver awareness and engagement efforts													Early Childhood Communication Collaborative	In Progress		

GOAL 5 Statutory Duties: CRS 26-6.2-103 through CRS 26-6.2-106
> Assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children, including securing funding and additional investments for services and supports for children and their families.

GOAL 5: Develop a long-term plan for the ECLC

	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost
	Reauthorize the ECLC prior to September 2018																	
		Evaluate need and opportunity for adding new members to ECLC; especially when the three year member term ends as of 6/30/16													ECLC Staff, Reauthorization Working Group	In progress	Reauthorization Working Group will begin working on this Summer 2016	
		Connect with the Governor and Director Bicha to discuss the reauthorization of the ECLC in session 2017													ECLC Co-chairs; OEC Leadership	In progress	Reauthorization Working Group will begin working on this Summer 2016	
		Connect with the DORA Sunset Advisory Committee per HB 1117													ECLC Staff, Reauthorization Working Group	Not yet started	Reauthorization Working Group will begin working on this Summer 2016	
		Evaluate the provisions in the current legislation and develop recommendations on what provisions should be included in the reauthorization bill; consider a small task force													Executive Subcommittee	Not yet started	Reauthorization Working Group will begin working on this Summer 2016	
		Identify bill sponsors													ECLC Staff, Reauthorization Working Group	In progress	Reauthorization Working Group will begin working on this Summer 2016	
	Improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of the ECLC																	
		Review funding and governance models within the nation													Executive Subcommittee	In progress		
		Explore statutory changes that would allow ECLC to receive general fund monies													Executive Subcommittee	In progress		

GOAL 5: Develop a long-term plan for the ECLC																											
	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	LEAD (Support)	Outcomes/ Progress Status	April Progress Updates	Resources: Partner or Cost									
	Identify strategic priorities that align with the updated 2015 <i>Framework</i> ; ensure the priorities are informed by research and measureable														Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee/ Executive Subcommittee/ Full ECLC	In progress	PQAC is contributing to the development of strategic priorities										
		Advise the OEC on what data and information is important to track and monitor													Data Subcommittee	In Progress	In progress, will continue to work through Data Subcommittee										
		Recommend methods to track and monitor outcomes in the revised <i>Framework</i> ; Determine, with partner input, what data are available to measure progress toward <i>Framework</i> outcomes													Data Subcommittee	Ongoing	Work will continue in coordination with the next steps of Framework development										
	Review and revise the 2016 Work Plan to have a plan in place for 2017														Executive Subcommittee/ Full ECLC	Not yet started											



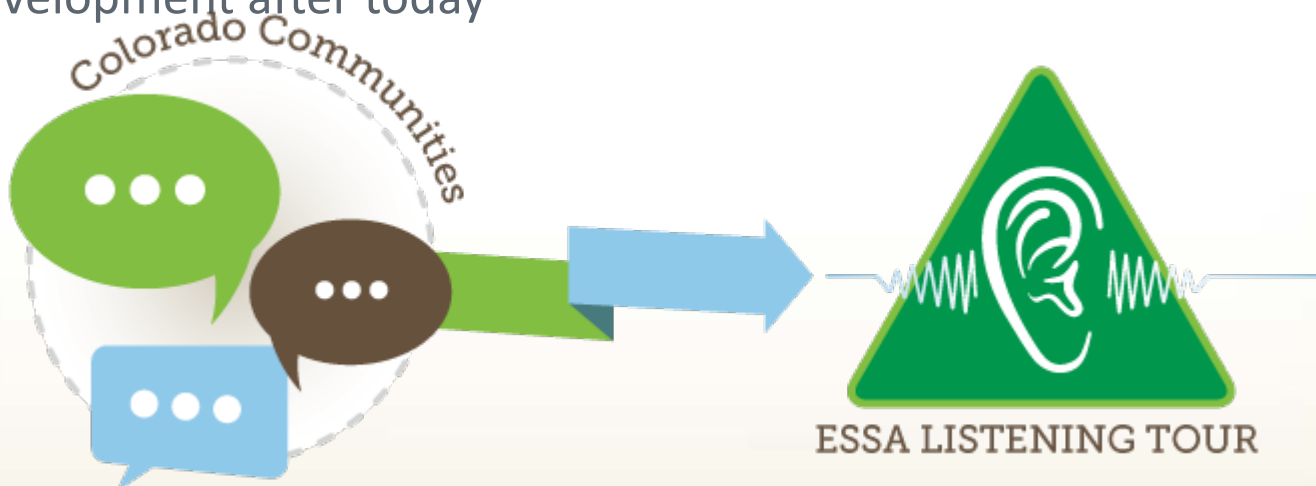
COLORADO
Department of Education

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Beginning the Conversation

May 4, 2016

Goals

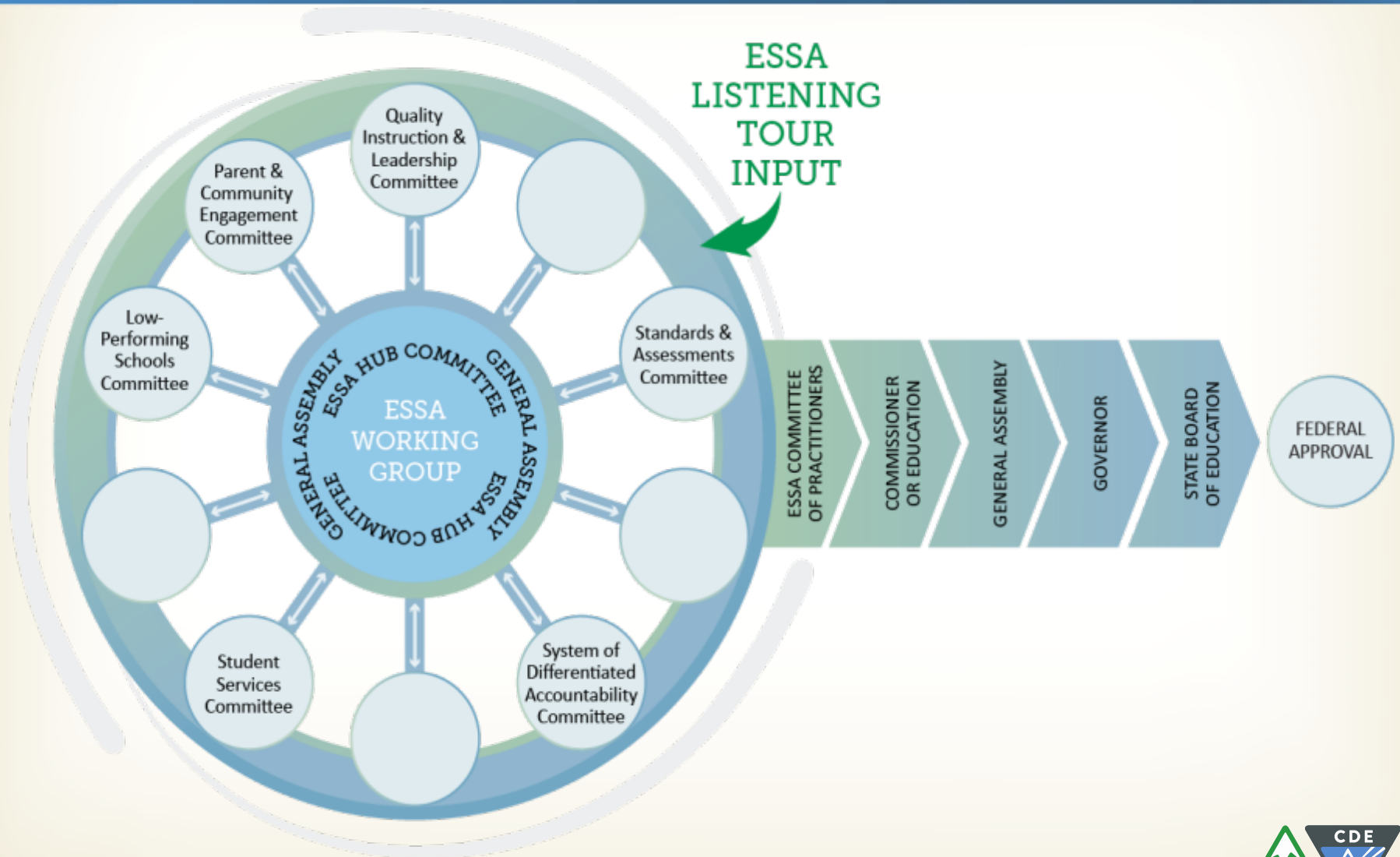
- Begin the conversation about ESSA in Colorado
- Share information about the ESSA State Plan development
- ESSA and Early Childhood Education
- Listen to your ideas, recommendations, and thoughts about ESSA
- Let you know how you can continue to be involved in ESSA state plan development after today



What is the Every Student Succeeds Act?

- Signed into federal law on December 10, 2015
- Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), replaces the No Child Left Behind Act
- ESSA federal requirements for:
 - Policy: Standards, Assessments, and Accountability
 - Programs- Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV
- Full implementation of ESSA in the 2017-2018 school year.
- Requires - with stakeholder involvement - development of a state plan for policy and program implementation

ESSA State Plan Development





Policy Framework



SCHOOL/DISTRICT POLICY

- Curriculum
- Instructional methods
- Day-to-day structure
- Hiring teachers
- Local assessments, etc.

STATE POLICY

- Licensure requirements
- Standards
- Specific state assessments, etc.

FEDERAL POLICY

- Broad goals for students
- Civil rights requirements
- Broad outline for assessments
- Requirements for standards, etc.

ESSA and Early Childhood Education

- Early childhood education and support for P-3 alignment is a priority under ESSA
 - Title I, II, III, IV, VI (see handout for more details)
- ESSA explicitly states that providing early education programs is an allowable use of Title I funds
- Title II funds to prepare, train and recruit high-quality educators can also be used to support “early educators”

ESSA and Collaboration

- Collaborative relationships are crucial to move this work forward.
- A recent presentation by the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education and National Association of Elementary School Principals stated:

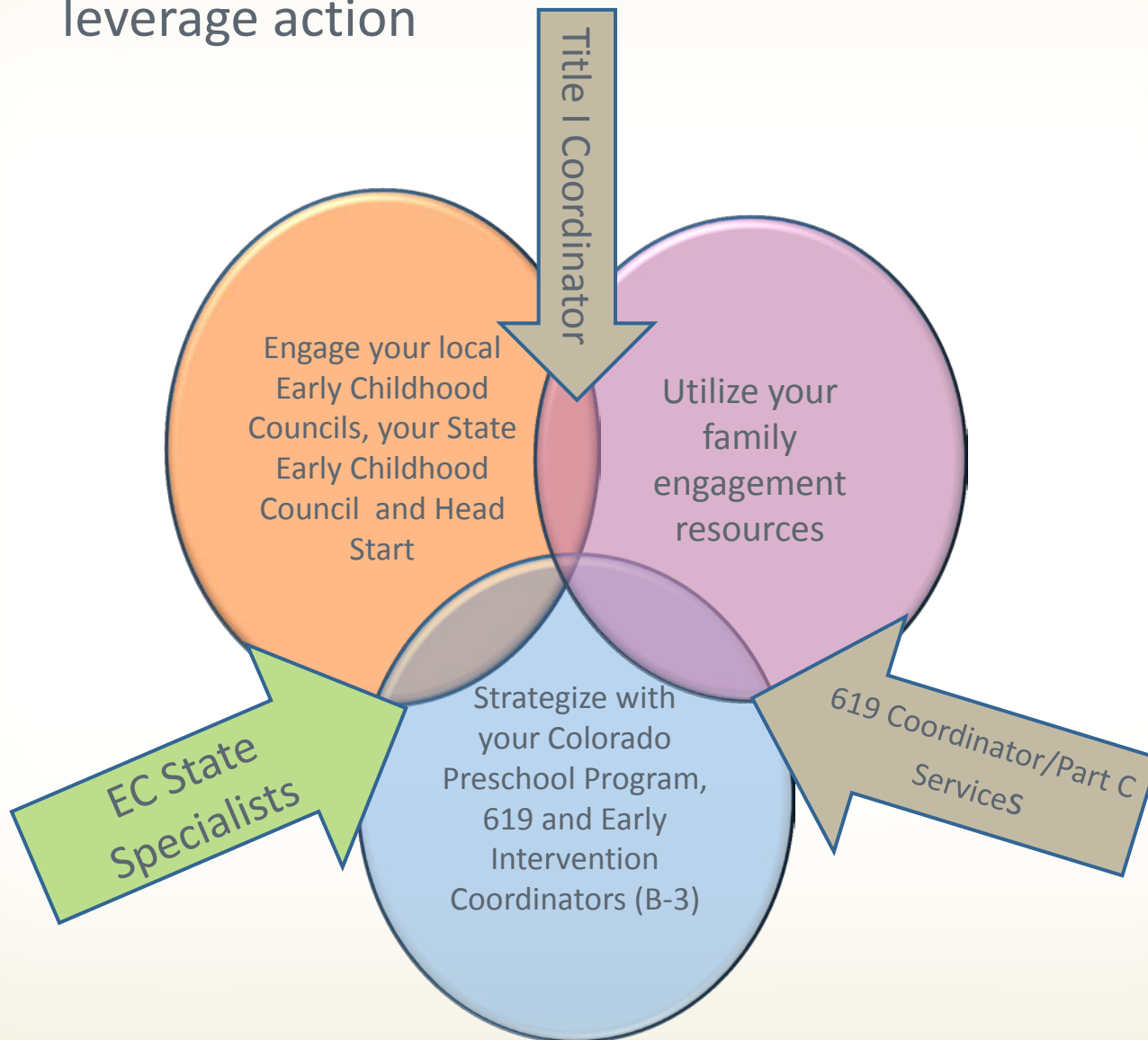
“State Education Agencies (SEA) and Local Education Agencies (LEA) make key decisions, therefore, efforts to co-produce plans that intentionally address early childhood will benefit everyone”

The “What” of ESSA for Early Childhood

Title I: Ideas to Support a P-3 Approach

- Use funds to increase the availability of preschool and full-day kindergarten
- Use funds to assess and improve the quality of programs serving children from birth to grade 3
- As a first step, identify and plan for strategies that strengthen partnerships between preschool and kindergarten
- Design plans for transitions from preschool to kindergarten and from kindergarten to first grade

Coordination is the Key: Broker relationships to leverage action

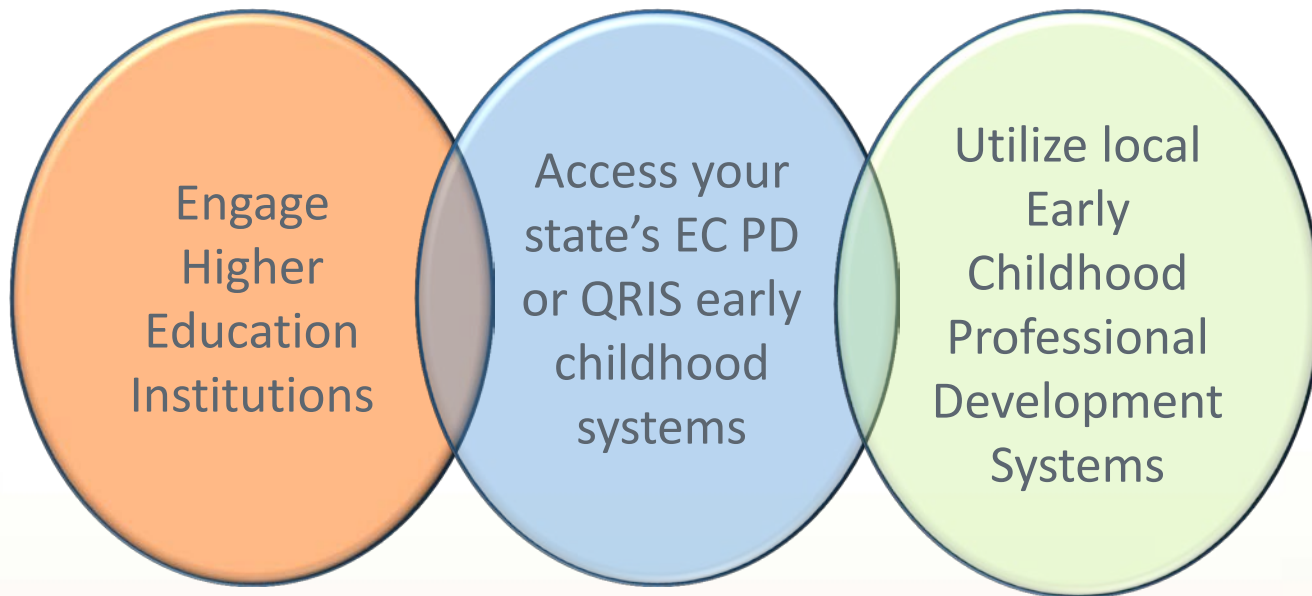


The “What” of ESSA for Early Childhood

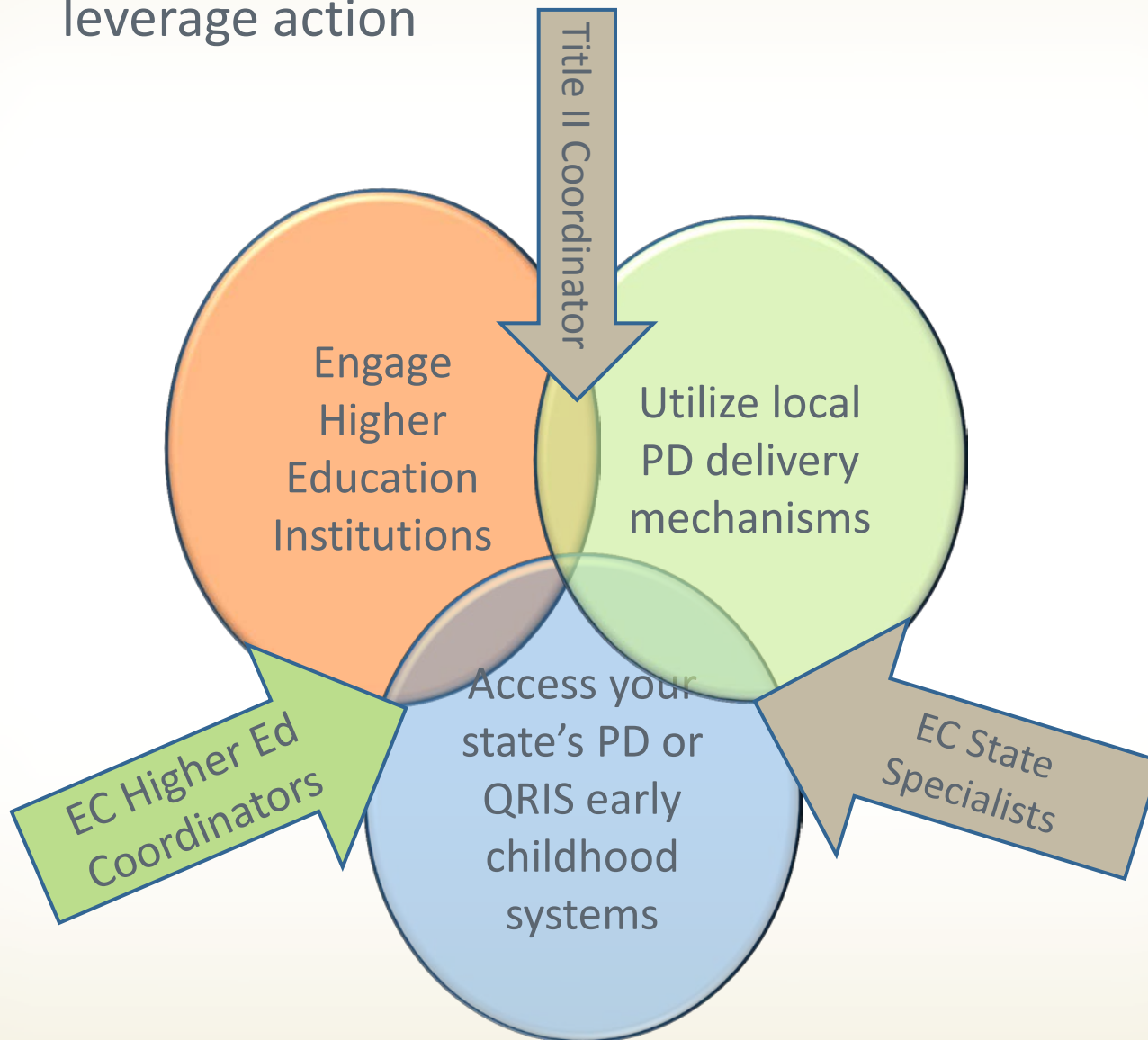
Title II: Ideas for Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and other School Leaders

- Provide PD opportunities focused on child development, specifically designed for school and district administrators
- Link school and community professional development opportunities (open to teachers, administrators and families)
- Design a PD plan that includes community preschool providers (funds for planning, materials, and substitutes)

What could this look like?



Coordination is the Key: Broker relationships to leverage action



The What of ESSA for Early Childhood

Title II – Part B, Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN)

- LEARN – Competitive grant for comprehensive state literacy plans (reading and writing) and needs assessments for children from birth to 12th grade.
- Sub-grants could go to LEAs, Early Childhood Education programs, or a combination of the two. Allows for links with health care providers.
 - Birth to kindergarten allowable uses could include:
 - Professional development for early childhood educators
 - Evidence-based early childhood education literacy initiatives – which could include home-based programs
 - Coordinating family and early childhood education involvement

ESSA... Continuing the Conversation

- **ESSA in Colorado blog**
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ESSABlog>
- **ESSA Mailbox**
essaquestions@cde.state.co.us
- **ESSA Webpage**
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa>
- **Additional ESSA Listening Events**
ESSA webinar – June 1, 2016
- **ESSA Committees**

ESSA and Early Learning

In the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), early learning is suffused throughout the document. Opportunities for supporting early learning can be found in almost every section of the act; most are discretionary and not mandated. There are numerous decisions to be made at the school district level. Funding can be used to support the development of a P-3 approach to early learning in a variety of ways. Below are some of the highlights:

Title I

Improving the Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged, Part A, provides \$15.4 billion in grants to ensure that children from low income families, English language learners, and children with disabilities are provided the resources they need to succeed in school. ESSA highlights the flexibility in using ESEA funds for preschool and numerous other programs and services for children from birth through 3rd grade. States must report on the number of children in preschool and describe how they will assist districts and schools who choose to use Title I funds to support early learning. Districts using funds for early childhood programs are required to comply with Head Start performance standards

Districts must increase coordination with early childhood programs. LEA communication plans must include how they will coordinate and support early childhood programs in planning transitions for children from preschool to kindergarten. Transition plans may include a process for receiving child records and meetings to discuss individual child needs. The updated parent and family engagement section allows funds to be used for professional development that includes parents.

Title II

Preparing, Training and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals and Other School Leaders, encourages state and local professional development plans to support principals, other school leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals and community-based early childhood program directors to participate in joint efforts addressing transitions to elementary school and school readiness. This may include:

- Training for principals and other school leaders on meeting the needs of children through age 8
- Training on appropriate instruction and assessment for children through age 8
- Joint learning and planning with public school and community based early childhood education providers

Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) – This competitive grant for comprehensive state literacy plans (reading and writing) and needs assessments for children from birth to 12th grade, includes sub-grants to LEAs, Early Childhood Education programs, or a combination of the two. In addition to professional development, these funds could also support:

- Coordinating family involvement
- Before and after school programs
- Opportunities to link birth – age 5 with kindergarten – 5th grade
- Planning time for teachers
- Opportunities to review pre-service, licensing standards and teacher evaluation with a focus on teachers working with children from birth through age eight



Title III

Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students allows support for strategies that promote school readiness and transition plans and activities. This section is explicit about using funds to provide professional development to improve instruction of and support the early childhood workforce to better work with English language learners.

Title IX

Section 9212

Preschool Development Grants – the primary purpose of this competitive grant is improving existing early childhood programs with a focus on parent choice, a mixed delivery system and support for transition to kindergarten.

Where can I learn more?

- To learn more about Early Learning visit www.cde.state.co.us/early
- To learn more ESSA visit www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs