

AUTHORITY/HISTORY

Louisiana’s Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council was created through Act 868 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session to inform policies related to the unification launched by Act 3 of the 2012 legislative session, which established unified expectations for child care, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten programs

2018 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, November 28

2019 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, February 13
- Wednesday, May 15
- Wednesday, July 17
- Wednesday, September 11
- Wednesday, November 13

MEMBERSHIP ROLES & APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

Chair: Paula Polito

Vice Chair: James Evans

LDOE Staff Coordinator: Jessica Baghian

| Role | Appointing Authority | Member | Title/Organization |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Advocacy or Service Organization, focusing on children with disabilities | State Superintendent of Education | Maria Blanco | Assistant Professor, LSU Health Science Center New Orleans |
| Nonprofit Advocacy Organization | State Superintendent of Education | Melanie Bronfin | Executive Director, Policy Institute for Children |
| Head Start Program (LEA) | BESE | Michelle Joubert | Director of Head Start, Calcasieu Parish Schools |
| Local Education Agency | BESE | Tamanika Odinga | Director of Early Intervention, St. Charles Parish Public Schools |
| Professional or Faculty Member with early childhood expertise | Commissioner of Higher Education | Susannah Craig | Associate Commissioner of Teacher and Leadership Initiatives, Louisiana Board of Regents |
| Type I Early Learning Center | State Superintendent of Education | Abigail Iron Rope | Director of Early Childhood Ministries/ Director of Operations, Trinity Lutheran Church |
| Head Start Program (non-LEA) | State Superintendent of Education | James Evans | Deputy Director of Operations, Total Community Action Agency |
| Type III Early Learning Center | State Superintendent of Education | Paula Polito | Owner/Director, Beary Cherry Tree Day Care Center |
| Parent of a child current enrolled in publicly-funded early learning center | BESE | Tasha Dennis | Parent |
| Nonpublic School | BESE | Carole Elliot | Associate Superintendent, Archdiocese of New Orleans |
| Nonprofit Advocacy Organization | State Superintendent of Education | Anthony Recasner | Executive Director, Agenda for Children |

| Role | Appointing Authority | Member | Title/Organization |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| Local Education Agency | BESE | Patricia Triche | Director of Early Childhood, St. John the Baptist Parish School Board |
| Louisiana Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics | President, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics | Roberta Vicari | Chief of Our Lady of the Lake's Pediatric Residency Program, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics |
| Representative of Louisiana Business or Community Org | BESE | John Warner Smith | Chief Executive Officer, Education's Next Horizon |
| Nonpublic School | BESE | Dionne Frost | Principal at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School |
| Type III Early Learning Center | State Superintendent of Education | Alan Young | Owner of Southland Park Learning Center |
| Type II Early Learning Center | State Superintendent of Education | Ashley Byrd | Director, Kidopolis Child Development Center |
| Representative from the Louisiana Workforce Commission | Ex-officio member | Kellie Taylor-White | Director, Workforce Investment Council of Louisiana Workforce Commission |
| Representative from the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information | Ex-officio member | Chris Eskew | Captain, Louisiana State Police |
| Designee from Senate Committee on Health and Welfare | Ex-officio member | Regina Barrow | State Senator, Senate Health and Welfare Chair |
| Designee from House Committee on Education | Ex-officio member | Patricia Smith | State Representative, House Education Chair |
| Designee from House Committee on Health and Welfare | Ex-officio member | Frank Hoffmann | State Representative, House Health and Welfare Chair |
| Director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the Department of Education | Ex-officio member | Linda Lambert | Director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Louisiana Department of Education |
| Representative from the Office of Sanitarian Services at the Department of Health and Hospitals | Ex-officio member | Carolyn Bombet | Sanitarian Chief, Field Operations, Department of Health and Hospitals |
| Designee from Department of Children and Family Services | Ex-officio member | LaTrese LeCour | Department of Children and Family Services |
| Designee from Senate Committee on Education | Ex-officio member | Beth Mizell | State Senator, Senate Education Chair |
| Representative of state agency responsible for programs under Section 619 or Part C of the IDEA Act | Ex-officio member | Antoinette "Toni" Ledet | Department of Health and Hospitals |
| State Director of the Louisiana Head Start Collaboration Project | Ex-officio member | Kahree Wahid | State Director, Louisiana State Head Start Collaboration Project |
| Designee of the Louisiana State Fire Marshall | Ex-officio member | Lorre Claiborne | Lieutenant, Office of the State Fire Marshal |
| Director of Maternal and Child Health Program at the Department of Health and Hospitals | Ex-officio member | Leslie Lewis | Obesity Prevention Program Manager, Louisiana Department of Health |