

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

2020 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, November 18

2021 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, February 24
- Wednesday, May 19
- Wednesday, July 14
- Wednesday, September 15
- Wednesday, November 17

MEMBERSHIP ROLES & APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

Chair: Paula Polito

Vice Chair: James Evans

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	Libbie Sonnier	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	Leslie Corban	Owner/Director, Corban Early Childhood Center
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
Local Education Agency	BESE	Patricia Triche	Director of Early Childhood, St. John the Baptist Parish School Board

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Role	Appointing Authority	Member	Title/Organization
Louisiana Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics	President, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	Ashley Lucas	Medical Director, General Pediatrics for OLOL Physician Group
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	Mark Richards	Captain, Louisiana State Police
Designee from Senate Committee on Health and Welfare	Ex-officio member	Nicole Angelle	Early Childhood Coordinator, St. Martin Parish
Designee from House Committee on Education	Ex-officio member	Polly Thomas	State Representative, House Education
Designee from House Committee on Health and Welfare	Ex-officio member	Chris Turner	State Representative, House Health and Welfare Committee
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 Committee
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
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	Nora McCarstle	Pediatric Statewide Nurse Consultant, Louisiana Department of Health
Director of the Louisiana State Head Start Collaboration Project	Ex-officio member	Kahree Wahid	Director of Head Start Collaboration, Louisiana Department of Education