

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.

2021 MEETING DATES

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

MEMBERSHIP ROLES & APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

Chair: Paula Polito

Vice Chair: Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D.

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	Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, Louisiana Board of Regents
Type I Early Learning Center	State Superintendent of Education	Mathilde Mulkin	Early Childhood Director, Sacred Heart’s Little Hearts Early Learning
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	Falicia Coleman	Owner/Director, All About Kids Child Care and Development Center
Parent of a child current enrolled in publicly-funded early learning center	BESE	Emily Hunyadi	Parent, Royal Castle Child Development Center
Nonpublic School	BESE	Carole Elliot	Associate Superintendent, Archdiocese of New Orleans
Nonprofit Advocacy Organization	State Superintendent of Education	Jennifer Roberts	President/Executive Director, New Orleans Early Education Network
Local Education Agency	BESE	Shenoa Webb	Executive Director, Early Childhood Programs, East Baton Rouge Parish Schools
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	Alan Young	Owner of Southland Park Learning Center
Nonpublic School	BESE	Paula Polito	Owner/Director of Beary Cherry Tree

Type III Early Learning Center	State Superintendent of Education	Joy Mitchell	Director, Children's Palace Learning Academy
Type II Early Learning Center	State Superintendent of Education	Lesley Corban	Owner/Director, Corban Early Learning 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	Aaron Marcelle	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	Melissa Drescher	Buildings and Premises Program Specialist, 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	Toni Ledet	Department of Health and Hospitals
Designee of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal	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