

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.

2022 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, February 23, 2022
- Wednesday, March 23, 2022
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022
- Wednesday, July 13, 2022
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022
- Wednesday, November 16, 2022

2023 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday, February 15, 2023
- Wednesday, May 17, 2023
- Wednesday, July 19, 2023
- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Wednesday, November 15, 2023

MEMBERSHIP ROLES & APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

Chair: Paula Polito

Vice Chair: Dr. Libbie Sonnier

| 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, Ph.D. | Executive Director, Policy Institute for Children |
| Head Start Program (LEA) | BESE | Michelle Joubert, Ph.D. | Director of Head Start, Calcasieu Parish Schools |
| Local Education Agency | BESE | Tamanika Odinga, Ph.D. | Director of Early Intervention, St. Charles Parish Public Schools |
| Professional or Faculty Member with early childhood expertise | Commissioner of Higher Education | Susannah Craig, Ph.D. | Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, Louisiana Board of Regents |
| Type I Early Learning Center | State Superintendent of Education | Janine Borne | Director, St. James Early Childhood Development Center |
| Head Start Program (non-LEA) | State Superintendent of Education | Chriscella Metyor | Program Director, Save the Children Head Start |
| 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 | Edy Addison | |
| Nonpublic School | BESE | Rabbi Yossi Chesney | Torah Academy |
| 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 |

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| Louisiana Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics | President, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics | Ashley Lucas, M.D. | 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 | Capt. 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 | Rep. Lance Harris | State Representative, House Education Committee |
| Designee from House Committee on Health and Welfare | Ex-officio member | Rep. 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 | Sen. 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 | Dr. Toni Ledet | Department of Health and Hospitals |
| Designee of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal | Ex-officio member | Lt. 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 |