

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:**

- \* ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED.
- \* PLEASE SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS IN THE CHAT BOX.
- \* THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED & AVAILABLE AT: <https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/>



# SEPECC Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026



Meeting will begin at 12:30pm

## Agenda:

- 12:30 Welcome
- 12:40 Benefits of connecting with your elected officials
- 12:45 Federal, State & Local Budget/Policy Updates
- 1:00 ECE Advocacy in Action
- 1:20 Special Presentation: Supporting Providers with EI Resources to Prevent Suspension and Expulsion
- 1:45 Community Partner Resources
- 2:00 OCDEL & ELRC Announcements
- 2:20 Wrap Up

# Language Justice Justicia del lenguaje



The right to communicate in the language you feel most connected with- the language of your heart.



El derecho a expresarse en el idioma con el que se sientan más cómodos y conectados: el idioma de su corazón.

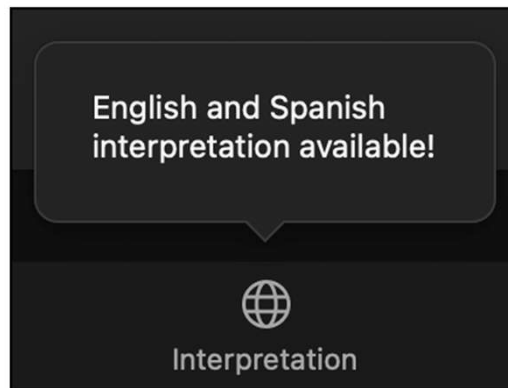
We will be using interpretation as a tool for opening communication



Usaremos la interpretación como una herramienta para expandir la comunicación.

# Zoom Interpretation/ Interpretacion por Zoom

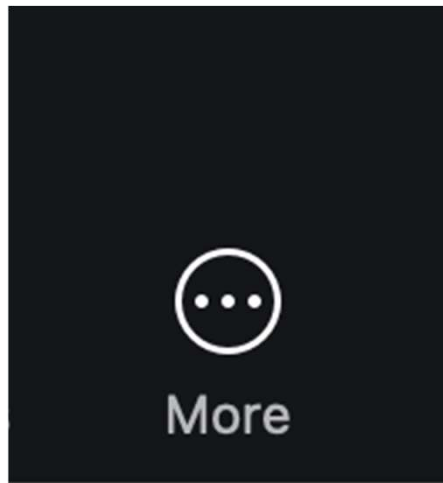
- Join the meeting using the Zoom app (not a web browser, if possible).
- In your meeting/webinar controls, click Interpretation.
- Click the language that you would like to hear.
- (Optional) To only hear the interpreted language, click Mute Original Audio



- Únase a la reunión usando la aplicación de Zoom (no desde un navegador web, si es posible).
- En los controles de la reunión o seminario web, haga clic en Interpretación. Haga clic en el idioma que desea escuchar. (Opcional) Para escuchar solo el idioma interpretado, haga clic en Silenciar audio original.

# Zoom Interpretation/ Interpretacion por Zoom

- If you don't see the globe icon, click the three dots labeled More. In the bottom right corner, tap More (three dots) and select Interpretation



- Si no ve el ícono del globo, haga clic en los tres puntos que dicen Más.
- En la esquina inferior derecha, toque Más (tres puntos) y seleccione Interpretación.

# SEPECC OBJECTIVES & PQAS

Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting-  
PQAS Credit



Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting- PQAS Credit

Thank you for joining the SEPECC Meeting. If you have attended the meeting and would like to receive PQAS credit, please fill out the information. Your credit will be on your PD Registry transcript. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at [pdmanager@fs3bu.org](mailto:pdmanager@fs3bu.org). Please fill out this survey within 24 hours of the end of the meeting. If you do not need PQAS credit, please do not fill out this form.

\* Required

1. First and Last Name as it is on the PD Registry \*

Enter your answer

2. Email that links to your PD Registry account \*

Enter your answer

3. PD Registry Number

Enter your answer

4. Please comment if you have any questions or feedback.

## OBJECTIVES

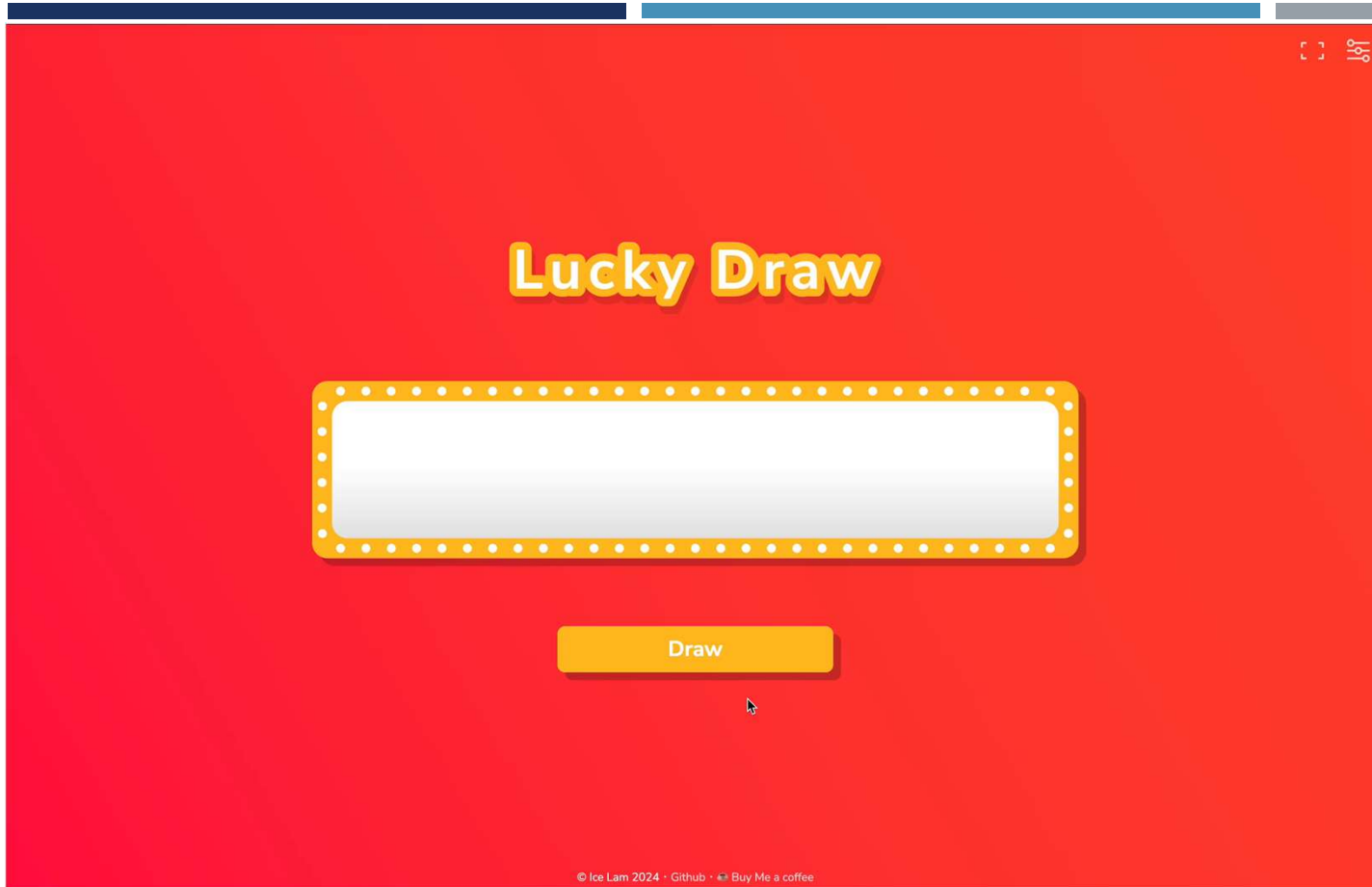
- NAEYC standard 6a- Identify as a committed professional in the early childhood education field.
- NAEYC standard 8b- Describe supports and resources to develop highly effective staff.

Please complete sign in

**within 24 hours** of the meeting end if you would like to receive PQAS credit.

Scan QR code or click on link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j>



**MARCH  
FIRST TIME  
ATTENDEE  
WINNER!**

Drop "**NEW**" in the chat if this is your FIRST SEPECC meeting and  
Want to enter in the draw for next month..

# BENEFITS OF CONNECTING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

## **Deepen legislators' understanding of ECE**

Share real stories that bring early education to life and highlight its impact.

## **Stay informed on Harrisburg priorities**

Learn what legislators are focusing on to better align your advocacy efforts.

## **Be a trusted voice with policymakers**

Build relationships and become a go-to, credible messenger for ECE issues.

# BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES

- FEDERAL -

MARY GRAHAM,  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



## Child Care Modernization Act (CCMA)

The Child Care Modernization Act would:

- Expand access to affordable child care
- Improve the quality and availability of care
- Support the child care workforce
- Help parents work and support their families



To learn more



TAKE ACTION

# BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES

- STATE -

## TYRONE SCOTT, FIRST UP

First Up



Champions for Early Education

PRE-K  
FOR PA  
READY TO SUCCEED



START  
STRONG  
PA

Tell PA Legislators that continued investments must be made in order to solve the historic staffing crisis in the early care and education workforce!

**SIGN THE PETITION**  
asking the General Assembly to prioritize investments that build on previous years' budgets.



<https://startstrongpa.org/take-action>

# UPDATES

- LOCAL -

## TYRONE SCOTT, FIRST UP

First Up



Champions for Early Education



# State of the Woman

Listening Tour

2026



share your experience ⇌

shape priorities

**19 MAR** CENTRAL LIBRARY, PHIL

**12 MAY**

FIREHOUSE, ERIE

**25 MAR** WHITAKER CENTER, HARRISBURG

**13 MAY**

SIX&KANE, KANE

**2 APRIL** PENN STATE ALTOONA

**14 MAY**

K&L GATES, PITTSBURGH

**17 APRIL** CHESTNUT ST COMM, LEBANON

**28 MAY**

ACTION TOGETHER, WILKES BARRE

**18 APRIL** HORSHAM TOWNSHIP CENTER

**29 MAY**

UNION LIBRARY, LEWISBURG

**1 MAY** VIRTUAL

**30 MAY**

COOPERAGE, HONESDALE

**11 MAY** ECAT, ERIE

register to attend at  
<https://linktr.ee/pawomen>

# SCAN ME



Sign up for  
**May 1st**

and

take 15 mins to  
complete the  
survey!



Congratulations to  
**Nicole Fetherman  
&  
Charles Coe**

**2026 Voice for  
Children Award  
Honorees!**

**PENNAEYC 2026 VOICE FOR CHILDREN AWARD**

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION!





Week of the  
Young Child  
Celebrations~

THANK YOU~!

**47** legislators in SEPA engaged  
(over **55%**o!)

**36** program visits & meetings  
more to come!



**YOU**  
**ARE**  
**AMAZING**

# JOIN FIRST UP & CHILDREN FIRST IN HARRISBURG!

**childrenFIRST**  
THE ADVOCATE FOR KIDS



**JOIN US IN HARRISBURG - SPRING 2026**

JOIN CHILDREN FIRST STAFF ON SCHEDULED VISITS WITH YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS TO TALK ABOUT SUPPORTING K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

March 23rd - K12  
April 20th - K12  
April 22nd - ECE  
May 4th - ECE  
May 6th - K12

June 9th - K12  
June 10th - ECE  
June 22nd - ECE  
June 24th - K12

YOUR VOICE IS CRUCIAL THAT EXPANDS PUBLIC EDUCATION



www.childrenfirst.org

[Children First Sign Up](#)



**JOIN A DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

**YOUR STORY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

First Up along with other Early Learning PA partners will visit the PA Capitol to educate lawmakers about the importance of ECE and the urgency of establishing additional funding in the coming fiscal year. You are invited to join us to meet with your legislator to discuss the important work you do! We will set up the meeting, a folder of information for your legislator, and a seasoned advocate to help lead the conversation during the meeting with your legislator. All you need to do is share YOUR story!

2026 CAPITOL VISIT DATES

MAY 5, 2026	JUNE 9, 2026
MAY 6, 2026	JUNE 25, 2026
JUNE 2, 2026	JUNE 30, 2026



[First Up Sign Up](#)

**First Up**  
Champions for Early Education



May - 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>  
June - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>nd</sup>,  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

**First Up / Children First**

# MAY 2026

## A Year Long of Advocacy For Early Childhood Education: Q2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 State of Women Listening Tour (virtual)	2
3 Teacher Appreciation Week Kick-off!	4 Harrisburg w/ Children First	5 Last Day to Register to Vote	6 ECE Latinos Day in Harrisburg w/ First Up	7	8	9 QIP (Quality Influential Professionals)
10	11 A Day Without Child Care	12 Last Day to Apply for Mail-in or Absentee Ballot	13	14 PD: Advocacy - Key to Impacting Change w/ First Up	15 Latinos Educando Juntos	16
17	18	19 SEPECC Primary Election	20 ELRC 16 Bucks Co. Directors Network	21 Latinos Provider Roundtable	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 LEAP (Leadership Empowerment Action Project) retreat
31						

Theme of the Month

Teacher Appreciation Month



Artwork Idea

Invite legislators to teacher appreciation celebration

Have children do "I love my teacher" artwork & send them to legislators.

Invite families to tell legislators "I can't go to work without child care!"

Need support? Questions?

EMAIL  
Public.Policy@firstup.org

# WHAT ELSE?

## MAY= TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH

## JUNE= GRADUATION

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**Happy**  
**250th**  
**Birthday**  
**America!**

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**LISA ILIOPOULOS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/OWNER  
LITTLE PEOPLES VILLAGE





# Freedom to Be.

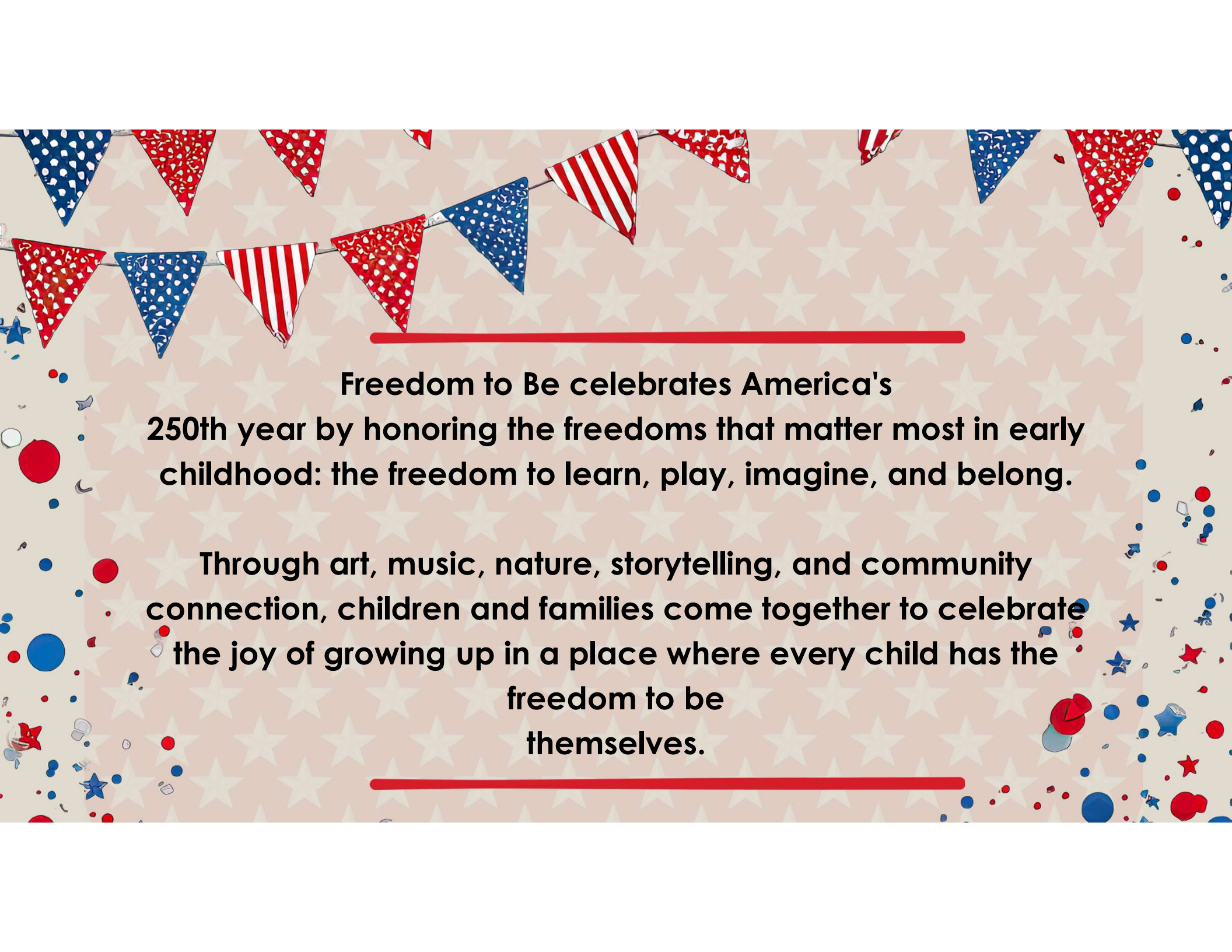
★ America's 250th Celebration for Kids ★

250 Years  
Freedom



USA





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**Freedom to Be celebrates America's 250th year by honoring the freedoms that matter most in early childhood: the freedom to learn, play, imagine, and belong.**

**Through art, music, nature, storytelling, and community connection, children and families come together to celebrate the joy of growing up in a place where every child has the freedom to be themselves.**

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**For many years, the United States has depended on its workforce, and this workforce, in turn, relies on childcare services to be able to work; without these services, economic operations would cease. While the nation champions freedom, childcare providers continue to advocate for the right to earn a decent living wage, the ability to sustain their operations, and the capacity to offer children the quality care they merit—as childcare is not a discretionary service but rather a fundamental component of national infrastructure.**

**A nation that values freedom must also adequately fund the workforce that enables children to learn, develop, and flourish-The Freedom to be. The following activities are designed for educators and parents to collectively demonstrate our dedication to safeguarding every child's freedom to grow, learn, and aspire, thereby acknowledging the critical importance of childcare funding.**

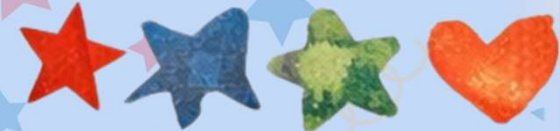
ACTIVITY

#1

## "FREEDOM TO CREATE" ART FESTIVAL

**A CHILD-CENTERED ART CELEBRATION THAT  
HIGHLIGHTS EXPRESSION, IMAGINATION, AND  
DIVERSITY**

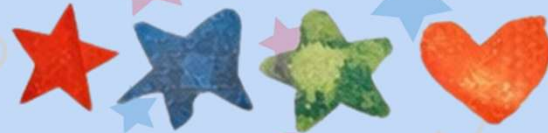
- **Freedom Murals - Children paint murals representing what "freedom" feels like (running, playing, choosing colors, being with friends)**
- **250 Colors Project - Create a collaborative artwork using exactly 250 unique colors or 250 brushstrokes**
- **Little Makers Market - Display children's crafts as a "gallery walk" for families**



# CORE MESSAGE

**Freedom to Create shows that children thrive when early learning programs are stable and well-funded.**

**With the right resources, educators can give children the freedom to express themselves, explore their identities, and build confidence through art. Investing in child care protects every child's freedom to imagine, create, and grow.**



ACTIVITY

#2

## "STORIES OF AMERICA" EARLY LITERACY WEEK

**CELEBRATE STORYTELLING, HERITAGE, AND  
COMMUNITY VOICES.**

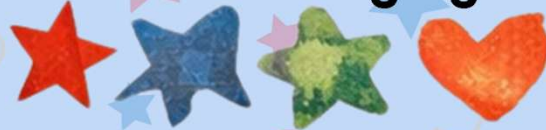
- **Family Heritage Story Circles - Families share simple stories about traditions, foods, or celebrations from their culture**
- **America Through a Child's Eyes Booklist - Curate inclusive picture books about community, kindness, and belonging**
- **Guest Readers from the Community - Firefighters, nurses, local artists, or grandparents read stories about helping others**



# CORE MESSAGE

**Stories of America shows that early literacy and cultural connection thrive when childcare programs are stable and well-funded.**

**With the right resources, educators can share diverse books, family stories, and community voices that help children understand who they are and where they come from. Underfunding limits these opportunities. Investing in child care protects every child's freedom to see themselves in stories, learn from others, and feel a sense of belonging.**



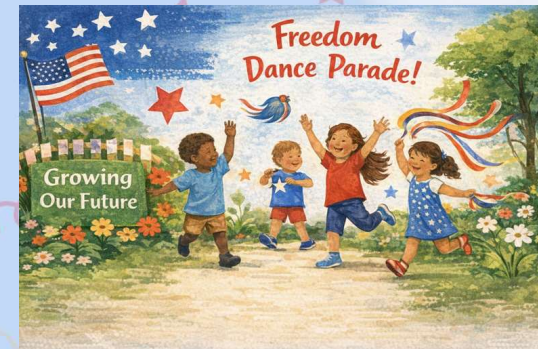
ACTIVITY

#3

## "GROWING OUR FUTURE" NATURE & FREEDOM GARDEN

**A SYMBOLIC GARDEN PROJECT REPRESENTING  
GROWTH, HOPE, AND THE NEXT GENERATION.**

- **PLANT 250 FLOWERS, HERBS, OR NATIVE PLANTS**
- **CREATE "Freedom stones"-painted stones placed around the garden with words like kindness, play, friendship, imagination**
- **Host a Garden Day where families help plant and children learn about caring for the earth**



# CORE MESSAGE

**Growing Our Future shows that children thrive when early learning programs are stable and well-funded.**

**With the right time, staffing, and materials, educators can offer hands-on experiences—like gardening—that build curiosity, responsibility, and hope. Underfunding child care limits these opportunities. Investing in child care protects every child’s freedom to grow, explore nature, and build a strong foundation for the future.**



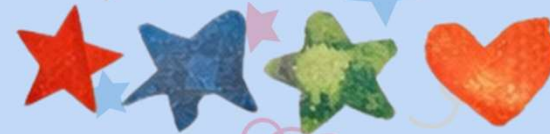
ACTIVITY

#4

## "VOICES OF FREEDOM" MUSIC & MOVEMENT CELEBRATION

**A JOYFUL, CHILD-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE EVENT**

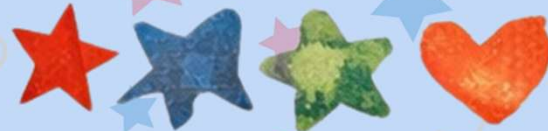
- **SONGS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP, UNITY, AND JOY (NOT POLITICAL ANTHEMS)**
- **Freedom Dance Parade** - Children create ribbon wands, scarves, or feather streamers and parade around the venue
- **Drum Circle of Unity** - 250 beats played together as a symbolic moment



# CORE MESSAGE

**Voices of Freedom shows that music and movement thrive when early learning programs are stable and well-funded.**

**With the right staffing and resources, educators can give children the freedom to express themselves, build confidence, and experience unity through joyful movement. Underfunding limits these opportunities. Investing in child care protects every child's freedom to celebrate, connect, and find their voice.**



ACTIVITY

#5

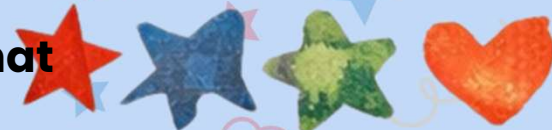
## "COMMUNITY HELPERS DAY" : CELEBRATING EVERYDAY FREEDOM

**HIGHLIGHT THE PEOPLE WHO HELP KEEP  
COMMUNITIES safe, healthy, and free.**

**Invite:**

- **Firefighters**
- **Nurses**
- **Teachers**
- **Postal workers**
- **Local artists**
- **Park rangers**

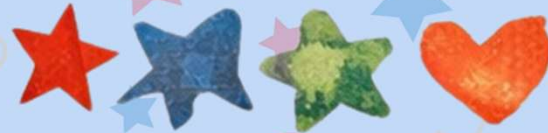
**Children rotate through stations learning what  
each helper does**



# CORE MESSAGE

**Community Helpers Day shows that essential workers keep our communities running – and early educators are part of that same backbone.**

**When childcare is underfunded, the entire network of providers that families rely on becomes unstable. Investing in child care ensures educators can continue supporting the firefighters, nurses, teachers, postal workers, artists, and etc. who makes the freedom to work possible.**



ACTIVITY

#6

## "FREEDOM TO PLAY" OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

**A BIG, JOYFUL, family-friendly event**

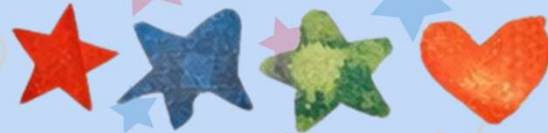
- **250-step obstacle course**
- **Bubble freedom zone**
- **Chalk-the-Sidewalk with messages of hope**
- **Kite-making and kite-flying (symbolizing freedom and possibility)**



# CORE MESSAGE

**Freedom to Play shows that children thrive when early learning programs are stable and well-funded.**

**With the right staffing, space, and resources, educators can give children the freedom to move, explore, take risks, and experience joy through play. Underfunding limits these opportunities. Investing in child care protects every child's freedom to play, imagine possibilities, and build confidence for the future.**



ACTIVITY

#7

## "LITTLE HISTORIANS: AMERICA THROUGH PLAY"

**HANDS-ON, AGE-APPROPRIATE EXPLORATION OF  
AMERICAN life across time**

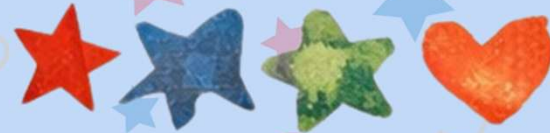
- **Old-fashioned play stations: wooden toys, pretend markets, simple tools**  
**"Build a Community" block challenge**
- **Sensory bins inspired by different regions (beaches, forests, mountains)**



# CORE MESSAGE

**“Little Historians shows that children learn best when early learning programs are stable and well-funded.**

**With the right resources, educators can offer hands-on, play-based experiences that help children build communities, explore tools, and discover America’s landscapes in meaningful ways. Underfunding limits these opportunities. Investing in child care protects every child’s freedom to learn through play and understand the world they are growing up to shape.**



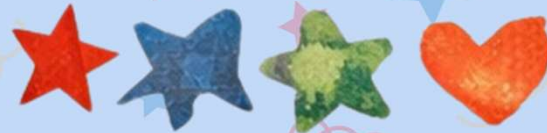
ACTIVITY

#8

## "LIGHT THE FUTURE" EVENING FAMILY GATHERING

**A SYMBOLIC, PEACEFUL CLOSING EVENT**

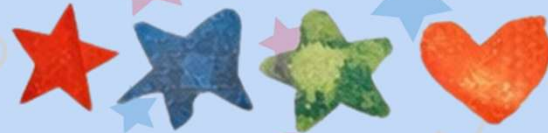
- **Children decorate LED lanterns representing hope for the next 250 years. Families walk a short "path of light" together.**
- **A simple message: "We celebrate the freedom to grow, learn, and dream."**




# CORE MESSAGE

**Light the Future shows that children's hope and potential depend on a childcare system strong enough to support them.**

**With stable funding, fair wages, and the resources educators need, families and communities can create moments of peace, connection, and possibility—like walking a shared path of light. Investing in child care protects every child's freedom to grow, learn, dream, and step confidently into the future.**





**Together, we fight for the childcare infrastructure children need—so every child has the freedom to be. They are the future we're shaping.**



Childcare  
CHANGEMAKERS

COMMUNITY  
CHANGE

## DAY WITHOUT CHILDCARE

### WE DEMAND A UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE SYSTEM

- ★ **FOR EVERY CHILD & FAMILY**
- ★ **WITH THRIVING WAGES  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATORS**
- ★ **BUILT ON RACIAL &  
GENDER EQUITY**

[DayWithoutChildCare.org](http://DayWithoutChildCare.org)

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**MERCEDES FLEET**  
DIRECTOR/OWNER  
BRIGHT LITTLE SCHOLARS



**SHINEAL HUNTER**  
DIRECTOR  
FAMILY CIRCLE ACADEMY

# DAY WITHOUT CHILD CARE RUN OF SHOW - MAY 11, 2026



**9am-----** Rally at City Hall

**11am-----** Drop in at Councilmembers' offices

**12pm-----** Virtual Rally/Network Luncheon  
(First Up Office or Kinder Academy-Rising Sun)

**1:30pm-----** Procession from First Up to City Hall

**2pm-----** More information to follow

TAKE A PLEDGE!



**DAY  
WITHOUT  
CHILD CARE  
RETURNS  
MAY 11, 2026**



**PLEDGE TO TAKE A STAND  
FOR DAY WITHOUT CHILDCARE**

**Join our movement of providers and parents! | ¡Únase a  
nuestro movimiento de proveedores y padres!**



**children first**  
ACTION FUND

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## **KEVIN BURGESS**

CHILDREN FIRST ACTION FUND &  
CHILD CARE VOTER  
[KEVINB@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG](mailto:KEVINB@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG)  
(445) 888-2542

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**Q:** Can you vote on ballot referendums or initiatives in the May 19th Primary if you are not registered to a specific political party?

**A:** Yes, People who don't belong to a major party can still vote on statewide referenda, local initiatives, and special elections that are on the ballot at the same time.

**Deadlines Primary Election – Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

- Last day to register to vote: May 4 by 5:00pm
- Last day to request a mail-in ballot: Tuesday, May 12 by 5:00 PM
- Deadline to return mail-in ballot: Tuesday, May 4 by 8:00 PM
- Election Day: Tuesday, May 19, 2025 — polls open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

**Resources**

- [Register to vote, request a mail-in ballot, and more!](#)

Follow Child Care Voter on social media!

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)





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-SPECIAL PRESENTATION-

SUPPORTING PROVIDERS WITH  
EARLY INTERVENTION  
RESOURCES TO PREVENT  
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

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**ZAKIYYAH BOONE**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
WONDERSPRING EARLY EDUCATION

**LESLIE SPINA**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
KINDER ACADEMY

**MELANIE BRENNAN**

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
KENCREST

**MARGIE WAKELIN**

SENIOR ATTORNEY  
EDUCATION LAW CENTER

**ROSE WEHRMAN**

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOW  
EDUCATION LAW CENTER



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**ZAKIYYAH BOONE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
WONDERSPRING EARLY EDUCATION  
  
SEPECC, CO-CHAIRPERSON



Philadelphia Inquirer ✓

April 14 at 11:10 AM · 🌐



While excluding a child from preschool due to developmental delays or disabilities is forbidden under state and federal law, a report said it's still a common practice that is often hidden. 🩹:

<https://ebx.sh/XJRcdj>



**Disabled children are being kicked out of preschools at alarming rates, report finds**

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**Kinder Academy**  
High Quality Early Childhood Education Since 1994



**VOICE OF ECE**  
An Advocacy Organization  
Partnering with ECE Stakeholders

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**LESLIE SPINA**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
KINDER ACADEMY

VOICE FOR ECE, ADMINISTRATION  
OF EDUCATION



SENATOR SHARIF STREET IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE VOICE OF ECE & TAAHIRS VILLAGE  
PROUDLY PRESENT A FREE



# AUTISM & EARLY INTERVENTION

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE EXPO



Connecting families to services, support, and early intervention resources.



SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



BUSTLETON LEARNING CENTER  
6600 BUSTLETON AVE. • PHILADELPHIA

Families, caregivers, educators, and community members are invited to attend this free community resource expo focused on supporting children with autism and developmental delays.



- Explore early intervention pathways
- Learn about autism support services
- Meet community organizations serving children with special needs
- Ask questions and access helpful resources for families and educators

A light lunch will be provided

📍 @SENSHARIFSTREET

SHARIF.STREET@PASENATE.COM • SENATORSHARIFSTREET.COM



**EDUCATION  
LAW CENTER**

# MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL YOUNG LEARNERS

MARGIE WAKELIN, ESQ.  
SENIOR ATTORNEY

ROSE WEHRMAN, ESQ.  
LEGAL FELLOW

APRIL 28, 2026

[WWW.ELC-PA.ORG](http://WWW.ELC-PA.ORG)

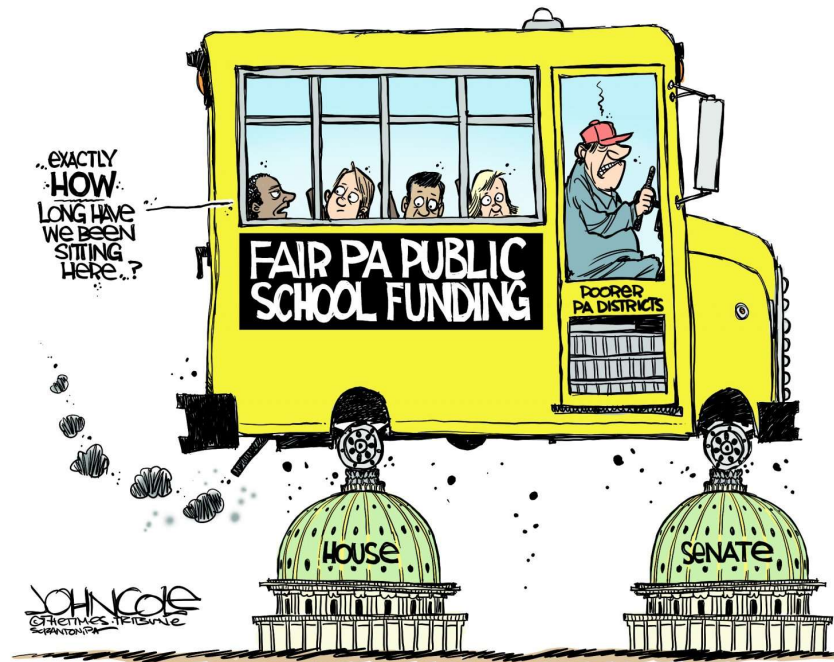
## WHO WE ARE

[Education Law Center-PA \(“ELC”\)](#) is a nonprofit, legal advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania.

Through legal representation, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community engagement, ELC advances the rights of underserved children, including children living in poverty, children of color, children with disabilities, multilingual learners, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, pregnant and parenting students, LGBTQ youth, and children experiencing homelessness.



# PA'S EARLY LEARNING AND SCHOOL PROGRAMS NEED MORE FUNDING



# Early Learning PA

ALL CHILDREN READY TO SUCCEED

Broad-based, umbrella coalition comprised of four specific campaigns focused on access to voluntary, high-quality early care and education and healthy development opportunities for all Pennsylvania children and families

## Childhood Begins at Home

Advocates to help policymakers and the public understand the value of evidence-based home visiting and support public investments in the programs



## START STRONG PA

Advocates for increased access to and affordability of high-quality child care

## PRE-K FOR PA

READY TO SUCCEED  
AN INITIATIVE OF EARLY LEARNING PA

Advocates for increased access to high-quality, publicly funded pre-k for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds

## Thriving PA

Advocates to improve the quality of and increase equitable access to a coordinated system of health supports, including comprehensive perinatal health services, children's health insurance, nutrition supports, lead screening and abatement, and high-quality Early Intervention Part C services

# EQUITABLE ACCESS AND UTILIZATION

## Strengthening Connections: Early Intervention and Behavioral Health Services for Infants and Toddlers in Pennsylvania



INDIVIDUALS

from



COUNTIES

EDUCATION  
LAW CENTER

### KEY FINDINGS:



- 1.** Strong interest in joint networking and training to build shared understanding between county EI and BH staff and improve referral pathways for families.
- 2.** Confusion and variability around how infants' and toddlers' BH needs are identified and who can provide behavioral health services to young children and in what settings—highlighting both gaps and opportunities for clarification.
- 3.** County-level inconsistencies in evaluation tools, service provision, and referral practices, which contribute to inequitable access across the state.

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



1

## MAXIMIZE NETWORKING AND RELATIONSHIPS

*Maximizing relationships and networking across systems empowers EI and BH staff to share resources, strengthen cross-system collaboration, and respond more effectively to the complex needs of young children and their families.*

- a. Create intentional spaces for relationship building among EI and BH providers and others:
  - i. Allow and plan for combined training opportunities with built-in networking time prioritized. These opportunities should include funding for the participation of EI providers, BH providers, and county administrators at the very least. (COUNTY)
    1. Opportunities should also be created for collaboration with Early Childhood Care and Education providers. (COUNTY)
  - ii. Allow and plan for conference attendance purposefully inclusive of EI and BH Staff. (COUNTY & OCDEL)
  - iii. Create spaces for less formal but more frequent gatherings to help make sure staff are acquainted in light of staff turnovers (e.g. lunch and learns). (COUNTY)
- b. When possible, allow for the physical sharing of office space between EI and BH staff, leading to easy collaboration. (COUNTY)
- c. Provide opportunities for parent and family engagement with EI and BH staff. (COUNTY)



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



## 2 INCREASE FUNDING

*Boosting funding for training and competitive salaries is essential to attract and retain skilled professionals—strengthening the infant and toddler early learning workforce and elevating the quality of care during the most critical years of development.*

- a. Additional increases are needed in the state budget for the following: (GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADMINISTRATION OCDEL, and COUNTY)
  - i. Improved wages across early learning, including:
    1. Increased wages for Infant and Toddler Early intervention providers to help address burnout and staffing shortages in particular areas (e.g. social work and psychology).
    2. Recruitment and Retention funding for early childhood educators.
  - ii. Additional Staff to ease caseloads, reduce waitlists, and create time for relationship building, meetings and trainings.
  - iii. Dedicated funding for coordinators to collaborate between systems .
  - iv. Increased Training budgets including conference attendance, and decreased limitations on use.
  - v. Specific funds for interagency professional development, including funding for training and TA for early childhood educators, and IMH certificates and endorsements.



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



## 3 INCREASE COUNTY CONSISTENCY



*Enforcing consistency across all counties ensures that EI and BH services are delivered to every eligible child and family—regardless of location—allowing them to access the same high-quality support throughout the Commonwealth.*

- a. Evaluation tools should be consistently used and interpreted in all counties. (OCDEL & COUNTY)
  - i. Ensure all counties are allowing and using evaluation tools that capture behavioral needs, including having a diverse evaluation team that includes someone with behavioral health and Infant Mental Health knowledge. (OCDEL & COUNTY)
    1. Guidance and training provided around:
      - a. Appropriate ICO use. (OCDEL & COUNTY)
      - b. Evaluation interpretation results. (OCDEL)
    2. Increased oversight confirming appropriate ICO use in all counties. (OCDEL)
  - b. EI services should be consistently available in all counties. (OCDEL & COUNTY)
    - i. Identify existing services, for example special instruction, that can be better utilized for some infant/toddler behavioral needs and provide guidance on how to best utilize that service. (OCDEL & COUNTY)
    - ii. Better utilize the Provider Registry.
      1. Maximize the time spent earning and expertise of endorsements by having them listed in the Provider Registry as was done previously so staff can be identified and best utilized. (OCDEL & COUNTY)
- c. Statewide encouragement of using the ECTA Center: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Early Intervention (Part C). (OCDEL)
- d. Guidance around Medicaid enrollment for families. (OCDEL, COUNTY)



# JOIN US IN THIS WORK!

## ➤ **Get engaged!**

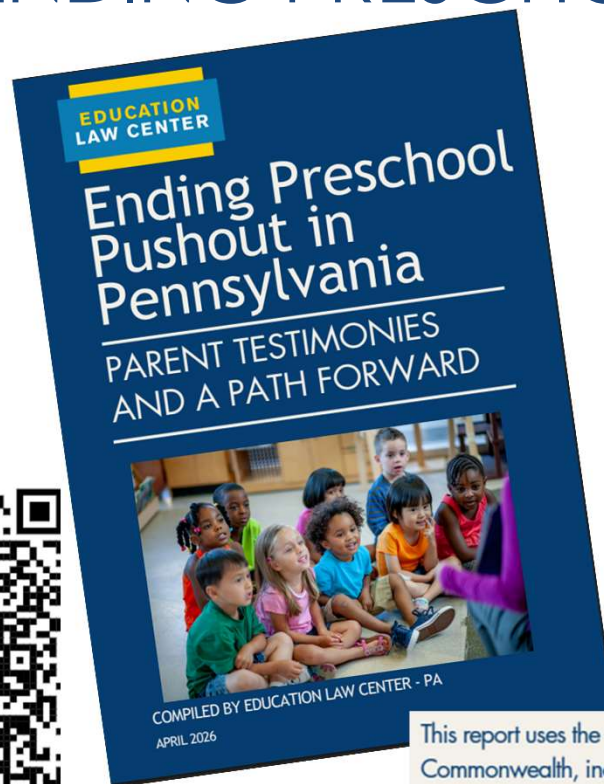
- Sign-up for updates from the Early Intervention Part C Workgroup
  - [Early Intervention Email Sign Up \(everyaction.com\)](https://everyaction.com)
  - Keep an eye out for action alerts asking for your support in reaching out to policymakers, signing on to letters, etc.
- Engage on Thriving PA's social media platforms **@thrivingPA**  
- Check-out more of our report and other resources on <https://thrivingpa.org/>
- Provide feedback on future fact sheets and reports

## ➤ **Stay tuned!**

- We'll stay in touch with updates and we hope you will work with us!



# NEW REPORT: ENDING PRESCHOOL PUSHOUT



“ I want to encourage parents: you have a little one to advocate for. Ask questions! Is this school a perfect fit for my child? I wish I had known to ask that, and ask about the supports in place for my child’s specific needs. -Barbara ”

This report uses the term "preschool" to encompass early learning programs administered in the Commonwealth, including child care and day care centers, Early Intervention programs, Head Start, private academic preschools, and school district prekindergarten (pre-K) programs.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Children's experiences in their first 5 years are critical to brain development.
- Access to high-quality early education is associated with positive outcomes, including **increased** graduation and employment rates, increased financial independence, longer lifespans, and academic, behavioral, and social benefits.
- While all children benefit from early education, **underserved children make the most significant learning gains**.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- All preschools in PA are required by the Office of Child Development and Learning (OCDEL) to work to **prevent, reduce, and ultimately eliminate suspension and expulsion.**
  - Protections also exist in preschool program policies, childcare licensing laws, and state and federal anti-discrimination laws
- Preschool settings/funding sources include daycares, private programs, and other places children receive early education.
- Suspensions and expulsions include informal removals as well as formal (not allowing a child to come without 1:1, reducing hours, sending home early, “not a good fit”, etc.)

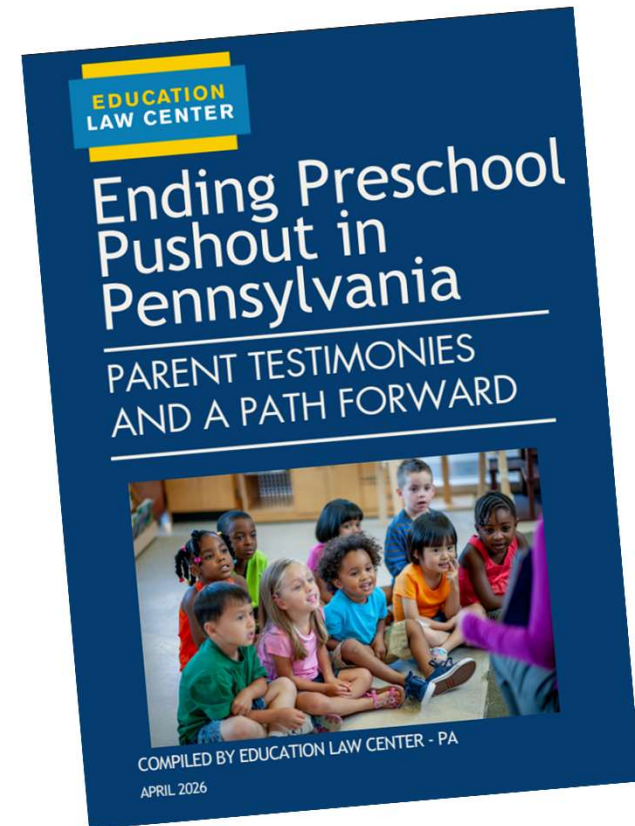
# IMPACT OF PRESCHOOL EXCLUSION

- Preschoolers are excluded at a rate more than 3x that of K-12 students.
  - Disparities: Black and Brown children, children with disabilities, and children who have experienced ACEs significantly more likely to be pushed out
- Suspensions & expulsions do not teach appropriate behavior and deny children the opportunity to access the benefits of preschool.
- When children are excluded from preschool, risk of future exclusion and later justice-system involvement increases significantly — pushing them into the **preschool-to-prison pipeline**.
- Suspensions & expulsions are associated with **negative** outcomes



# THE IMPACT

LIVED EXPERIENCE	WISHED FOR EXPERIENCE
Heartbreaking; Nightmare	Supportive
Dramatic	Awesome
Irregular; Disorganized	Good process
Disappointing; Difficult	Easy; Smooth
Unfair; Overwhelmed	Balanced; Aware
Uncertain	Supported



# RESOURCES PARENTS REQUESTED

**Parents Answered:** *What resources would have helped your family?*

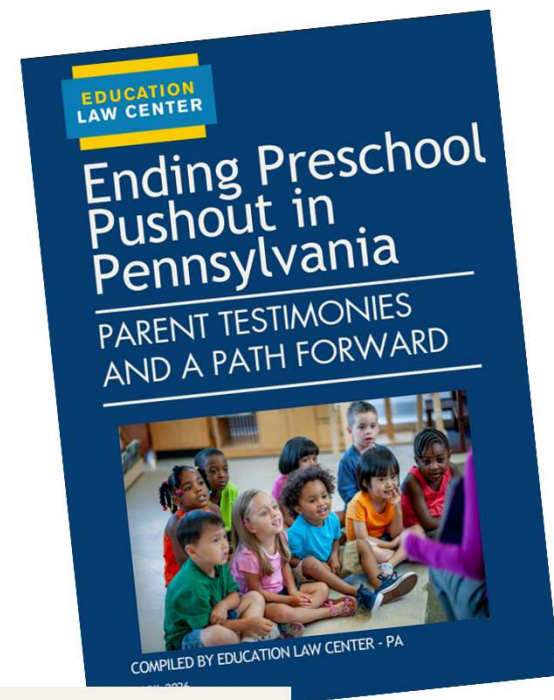


- A **guide** to support families with navigating the preschool system, and specific **information** about individual schools' policies and procedures. **Clear protocols.**
- Access to **consistent, supportive Early Intervention programs** to set children up for success.
- **Clear, transparent communication from providers and schools.** Parents need to know their children's rights.
- **Training for adults** to support students with disabilities.

“ Ask parents **details** about their child and what supports they might need.  
-Rita ”

“ *Ask for specifics.*  
How will the school help my child grow and support their needs?  
**Ask what your child's day will look like.**  
  
What are the accommodations in place so they can thrive?  
-Pamela ”

EDUCATION  
LAW CENTER



# NAVIGATING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE ISSUES

- **Make sure you have:**
  - Up-to-date copy of IEP
  - LEA contact information (parent should have)
- **Communicating Concerns**
  - **IEP meetings:** Elwyn/IU should be inviting you to IEP meetings to hear your input. If they are not, ask to attend to share concerns. You can email the LEA
  - **Data tracking:** If you have concerns about suspected disability-related behaviors, track data and share with Elwyn/IU
  - Consider using email to ensure record of asking for more support
  - Can request services over Elwyn/IU breaks if child would regress without them

# NAVIGATING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE ISSUES

- **If services aren't enough/appropriate or aren't happening/happening consistently:**
  - **Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports Complaint:** Parents (or you!) can make a complaint to BEISFS about EI issues
  - **Mediation or due process hearing:** Parents can request from the Office for Dispute Resolution ([odr-pa.org](http://odr-pa.org))
    - **Read more here:** [Resolving Special Education Disagreements](#)
  - **Compensatory education:** Children who aren't given their services/appropriate services are likely eligible for makeup services/funds
  - **Elwyn complaint:** Parents can make a complaint or grievance directly to Elwyn

# NAVIGATING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE ISSUES

- **Identify whether provider is through EI or BH (ABA companies, RBTs, etc.)**
  - If child is not getting services from BH but may need them, let family know about options – can have both
- **Children with MA can get BH services**
  - Outside Philly
    - County Mental Health (e.g. – [Delaware County Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#))
  - In Philly:
    - **Call CBH:** Parents can call Member Services at 888-545-2600 to discuss concerns, including requesting to be paired with a new ABA company (for example, if their company can't staff the hours)
    - **Complaint:** Parents can file a complaint with CBH if they're unhappy with services, not getting services, etc.
    - **Grievance:** Parents can file a grievance if CBH denies or decreases service hours
    - <https://cbhphilly.org/members/rights-responsibilities/complaints-grievances-and-fair-hearings/>

# EDUCATION LAW CENTER-PA

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---

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This presentation is made possible by support from the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation.

**EDUCATION  
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# RESOURCES

SUPPORTS FOR PROVIDERS TO HELP GET CHILDREN'S NEEDS MET

[EITA](#)



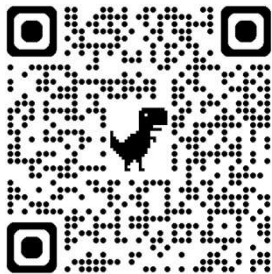
[RRT](#)



[KenCrest SWIFT](#)



[CARA's Kit](#)



[IECMH](#)



**OCDEL Early  
Intervention Formal  
Complaint Form**

[PaTTAN - Early Intervention  
Complaint Form](#)

[PaTTAN - Early Intervention  
Complaint Form- Spanish](#)

Or call 717-346-9320 to file  
your complaint verbally



COMMUNITY PARTNERS RESOURCES



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
POLICY FELLOWSHIP

---

**EMILY SAGOR**

[ESAGOR@TEACHPLUS.ORG](mailto:ESAGOR@TEACHPLUS.ORG)

504-202-7889



# MISSION OF TEACH PLUS

The mission of Teach Plus is to **empower** excellent, experienced, and diverse **teachers** to take **leadership** over key policy and practice issues that advance **equity**, **opportunity**, and **student success**.





## + TEACH PLUS PA POLICY FELLOWSHIP



- + *Leveraging the expertise and voices of our state's outstanding teachers to advance equity for students*
- + The Teach Plus Pennsylvania Policy Fellowship is a highly selective leadership opportunity for outstanding Pennsylvania teachers and early childhood educators to deepen their knowledge of education policy and gain a voice in decisions that affect their students and the teaching profession.





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## FFQ OVERVIEW





Fund for Quality (FFQ) is a partnership between Reinvestment Fund and Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), with funding from the William Penn Foundation.

Through the provision of business planning and facilities-related financing, Fund for Quality supports high-quality early care and education providers with expanding their services to reach more low-income families.

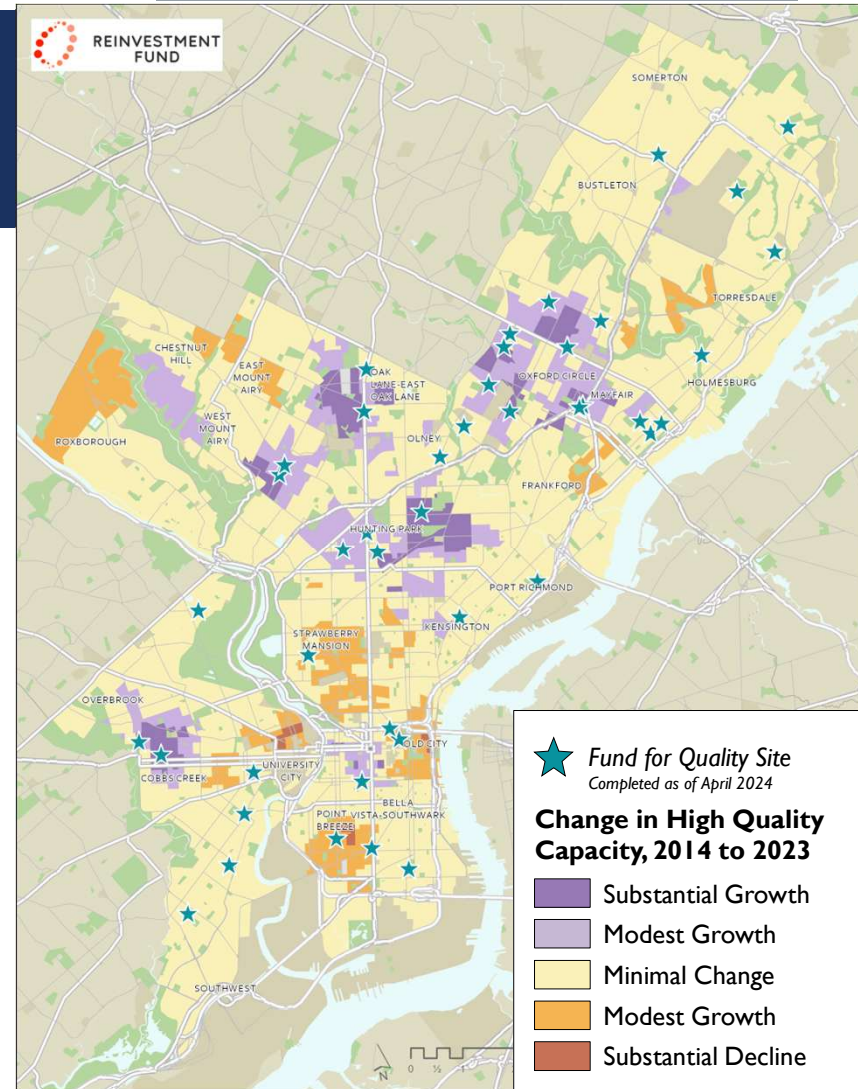


- 2014: Program began (pilot)
- 2016 – 2022: Round 2
- 2022 – 2024: Round 3
- 2024 (July ) – 2025 (June)

# OUTCOMES

-  More than **3,250** new high quality child care seats created in Philadelphia
-  **57** completed projects
-  **6** projects actively in the Planning or Capital Phases
-  **3,900+** total expected high quality seats created by end of 2024

MS1



**Slide 76**

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**MS1** Should this be updated for 2026?  
Megan Sonnie, 2026-04-24T19:50:36.126

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# ELIGIBILITY FOR GUIDED PLANNING PHASE

*\*ORGANIZATIONS FIRST APPLY TO THE PLANNING PHASE OF THE PROGRAM*



**Existing high quality operator (STAR 3 and 4) at over 50% of sites**

Must be in operation for 2+ years



**Serving low-income populations**

(over 50% of children served receiving subsidy funding including CCW, Head Start, Early Head Start, PreK Counts, and PHLpreK)



**Positive attendance trends and strong business plan**



**Organizational capacity for expansion**



**Projects that will increase licensed capacity by 40 or more ECE seats in Philadelphia**



**Ownership or long-term lease (10+ years) on property and landlord consent for renovations**

# PRIORITY SELECTION CRITERIA

## ■ **Program Priorities:**

- Commitment to quality
- Program readiness to expand
- Serving all care levels
- Serving low-income families

## ■ **Project Priorities:**

- Timeline Alignment
- High potential new seat creation
- High-quality design commitment and potential at site
- Location priority
  - Based on Childcare Map data

## KEY DATES FOR LOI AND FULL APPLICATION

- **FFQ Information session – April 30<sup>th</sup> 12:30-1:30PM – [Register Here](#)**
- **Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline – Monday, June 15, 2026**
  - LOIs will be reviewed on a weekly basis. If initial eligibility is met a full application invitation will be sent.
    - \*We encourage interested providers to submit early to allow time for questions or feedback, and to ensure plenty of time to complete the full application
  - **Only** LOI submissions that meet initial eligibility will be invited to the full application.
- **Application Deadline – Tuesday, June 30, 2026**
  - Site visits with select applicants
- **Notifications – August 2026**

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Open Office Hours
  - Have questions? Talk with an FFQ team member during open office hours
    - Every Wednesday May 5th – June 10th from 1-1:30pm
    - [Register here](#)
- Coaching 2 Success: “A Sip of TEA”
  - Application & Facility Expansion Prep Sessions
    - Session #1 – Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 12:30-2:30pm – [Register Here](#)
    - Session #2 – Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 12:30-2:30pm – [Register Here](#)
- Fund for Quality Website : <https://www.fundforquality.org/>



---

**TIEISHA YOUNG**  
[tieisha.young@firstup.org](mailto:tieisha.young@firstup.org)

---

# Schedule Your Professional Development for 2026-2027!

- Plan your In-Service Days **Now**
- First Up offers live trainings, both in-person or virtual
- We will tailor a training to meet your needs
- PQAS and ACT 48 credit given
- Daytime and evening hours available

For More Information or to Schedule:  
**Contact** Alix Cozen | [alix.cozen@firstup.org](mailto:alix.cozen@firstup.org)

---

# Schedule Your Professional Development for 2026-2027!

- You can find more information about First Up professional development on our Website. Check us out at [www.firstup.org](http://www.firstup.org)

For More Information or to Schedule:  
**Contact** Alix Cozen | [alix.cozen@firstup.org](mailto:alix.cozen@firstup.org)



# First Up Technology Services

**Building UP** *tech for tomorrow*

**John Troncale** | *Technology Lead* | First Up

# What We Do



- IT Strategy & Planning



- Cloud Migration



- Email Setup & Management



- IT Project Management



- Computer & Network setup and Management



- IN-person & Remote IT Support



- Camera & Intercom Installation

# Why Choose Us?



Fast & Reliable Support



End-to-End IT Solutions



Cost-Effective



**Local Expert with over 20  
years working in ECE  
programs**

# How We Work



**Free** Consultation  
& Assessment



Implementation &  
Support



Continuous  
Monitoring &  
Improvement

# Let's Build **UP** Your Technology

---



**P** | 717-542-1392



JOHN.TRONCALE@FIRSTUP.ORG



WWW.FIRSTUP.ORG



# Technology Solutions | Lunch & Learn

---

Come and connect with **John** Troncalle & **Alix** Cozen to hear what First Up has to offer with Technology Solutions!

Date:	Time:	Zoom Link:
Wednesday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30-1:00pm	Technology Solutions   Lunch & Learn   1st Meeting Option   <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/kjBNojitQ0ejPtpHHMZLDg">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/kjBNojitQ0ejPtpHHMZLDg</a>
Wednesday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	1:00-1:30pm	Technology Solutions   Lunch & Learn   2nd Meeting Option   <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/mCc0biquQ-mnsWs5-So2qg">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/mCc0biquQ-mnsWs5-So2qg</a>





## MINNETTE TAYLOR

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Philadelphia

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Elkins Parks

Conshohocken

Montgomery

Gladwyne

Drexel Hill

Chester Co.

Eagleville

Villanova

Darby

Glenside

Blue Bill

Cheltenham

Collegeville

Elkins Parks

Fort Washington

Bensalem

Doylestown

Saturday, May 2, 2026  
Doors Open 8:30 AM  
6600 Bustleton Ave,  
Philadelphia



**Shine a Light**  
HONORING LEADERS WHO ILLUMINATE CHILDREN'S LIVES AND  
LEAD TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN EDUCATION POLICY.  
**TEACHER APPRECIATION**  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
8:30 am-2:30 pm  
Bustleton Learning Center  
6600 Bustleton Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19149

**10th**

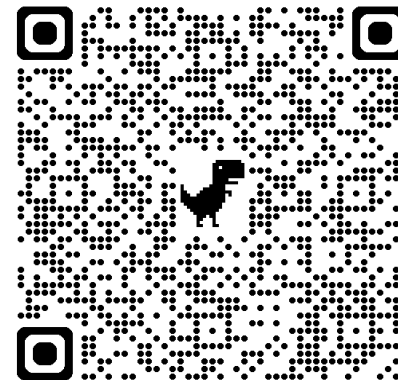
**\$35.**  
Per-Person

**Register Here!**

858-751-9116 minimontessoriacademy@gmail.com minimontessoriacademy.com

**We love Our TEACHERS!**

**Donate**



# THANKS TO:

Thank to our sponsors we will be celebrating our 10th Teacher Appreciation Celebration on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026, at Bustleton Learning Center, located at 6600 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19149, at 8:30 AM.



It would be a privilege to recognize and celebrate the **early learning programs** that have achieved accreditation, as well as the early learning educators who have earned their **CDA, AA, BA, or MA**, during the event.  
(May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026)

Send:  
[minimontessoriacademy@gmail.com](mailto:minimontessoriacademy@gmail.com)

Mini Montessori Academy



## Shine a Light 2026 Honorees



Adrienne Briggs,  
M.Ed.



State Rep.  
Darisha K. Parker



Laverne  
Cheesebora

please join us  
Saturday, May 2, 2026

### TEACHER APPRECIATION

Where Passion Meets Purpose:  
Honoring Our Educators and Leaders  
across Pennsylvania





# CELEBRATE Success!



- *Check-In at 8:00 AM*
- *Three Complimentary Books for your classroom library & One \$50 Raffle Ticket*
  - *Breakfast served at 8:30 AM*
- *9:30 AM Feature Movie Presentation*
- *Visit Exhibitors, Photo Station, Interview an Honoree*
- *12:30 PM Honoraria Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony*
  - *Music & Dancing*

**FIRST 40  
ATTENDEES  
GET AN  
EXCLUSIVE  
GIFT**



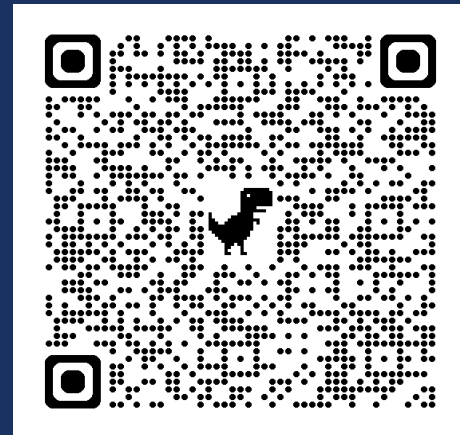


MINNETTE TAYLOR

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**OCDEL, DHS  
& ELRC  
Announcements**

---

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MARYKAY MAHAR - ELRCS  
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Pennsylvania  
Office of Child Development  
and Early Learning

NETTA RADZINSKI  
C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV

## PROVIDER CLOSED DAYS FEEDBACK



- Focus Group held on April 1, 2026
- Roughly 30 providers across the Commonwealth participated
- 125 providers gave response through feedback form
- Data team shared Closed Days data for focus group review

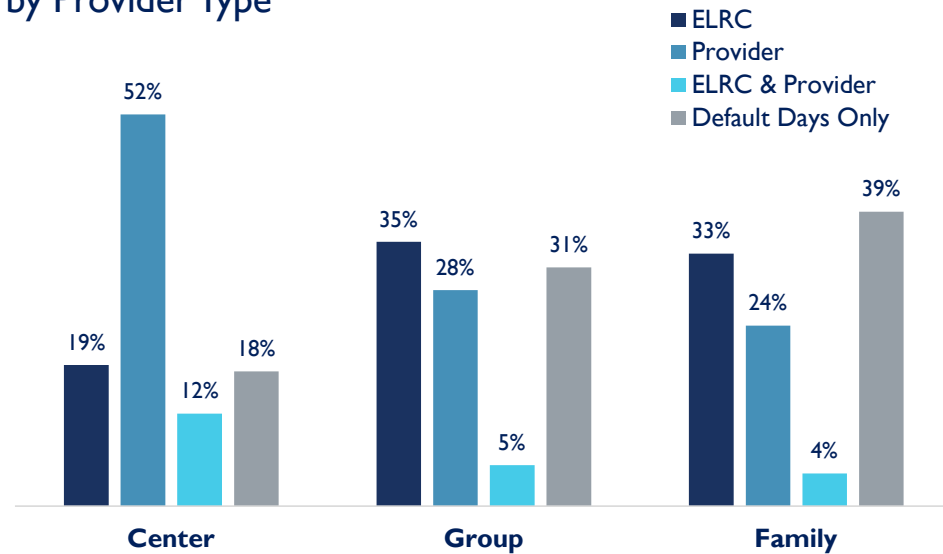
## DOES PROVIDER TYPE MATTER IN DATA ENTRY?

**Yes.**

**Centers:** Providers are more likely to enter data.

**Group & Family:** ELRCs are entering data a little more often than Providers; however, these provider types also have more providers making no changes/no additions to the 7 default days

### Closed Day Data Entry by Provider Type



Average = 13  
Days

Average = 11  
Days

Average = 11  
Days

Source: PELICAN; Notes: 1. Unless otherwise noted, all data shown in the visuals is based on the average across 5 fiscal years: SFY 2021-22, SFY 2022-23, SFY 2023-24, SFY 2024-25, SFY 2025-26. 3. SFY 2025-26 data is as of February 28, 2026. 2. Providers were included in the state fiscal year analysis if they were a Certified Provider and had a Subsidy Agreement or had no Subsidy Agreement on file but had Closed Days entered in PELICAN.

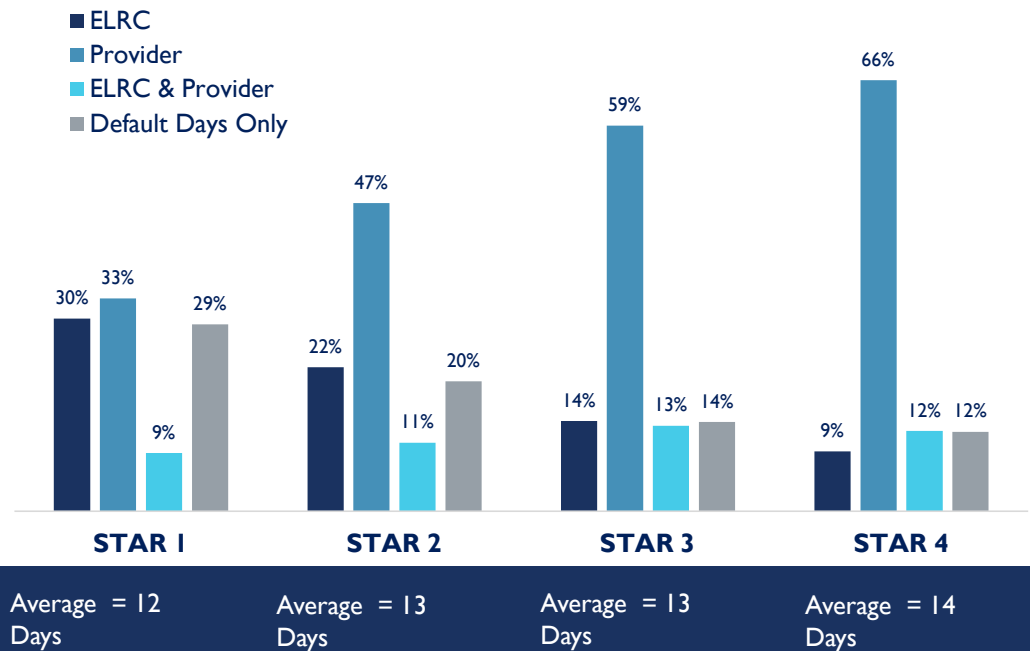
## DOES STAR LEVEL MATTER IN DATA ENTRY?

**Yes.**

As STAR Level increases,

- Provider data entry increases
- ELRC data entry decreases
- Percent of providers with only default closed days decreases

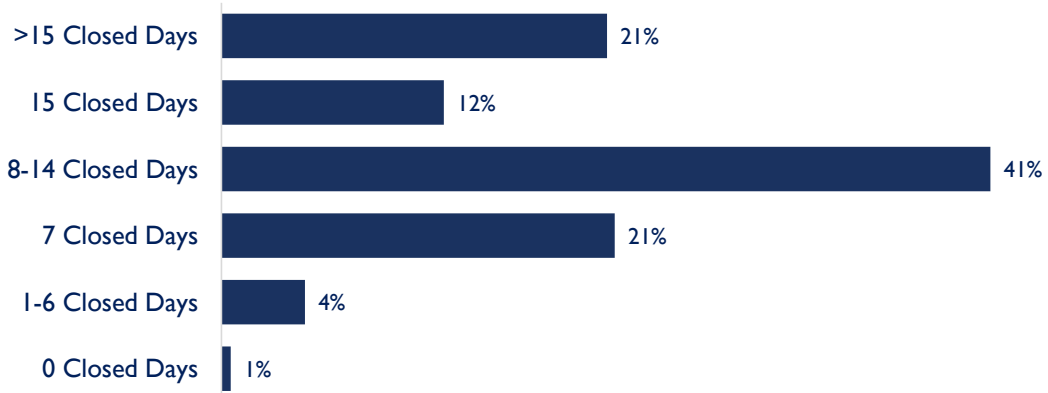
### Closed Day Data Entry by STAR Level



Source: PELICAN; Notes: 1. Unless otherwise noted, all data shown in the visuals is based on the average across 5 fiscal years: SFY 2021-22, SFY 2022-23, SFY 2023-24, SFY 2024-25, SFY 2025-26. 3. SFY 2025-26 data is as of February 28, 2026. 2. Providers were included in the state fiscal year analysis if they were a Certified Provider and had a Subsidy Agreement or had no Subsidy Agreement on file but had Closed Days entered in PELICAN.

## HOW MANY CLOSED DAYS ARE PROVIDERS USING?

### Average Percent of Providers by Number of Closed Days

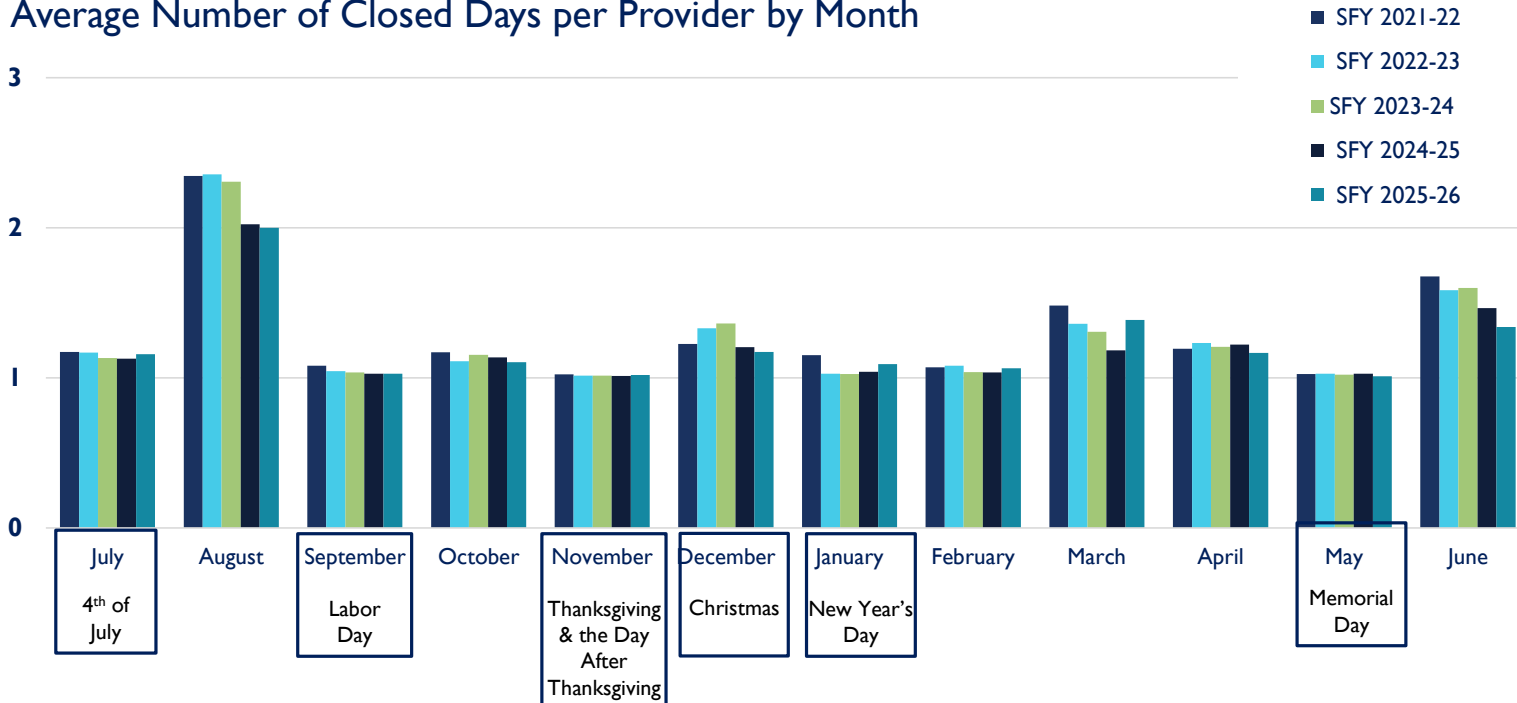


### And are the days paid or unpaid?

	Paid vs. Unpaid Closed Days	Statewide
(81%) use only paid closed days; of those, 12% report more than 15 closed days	15 or fewer days, all Paid days	69%
	More than 15 days, 15 are Paid days	12%
	15 or fewer days, mix of Paid & Unpaid days	8%
	More than 15 days, fewer than 15 Paid	7%
	15 or fewer days, all Unpaid days	2%
	More than 15 days, all Unpaid days	2%

Source: PELICAN; Notes: 1. Unless otherwise noted, all data shown in the visuals is based on the average across 5 fiscal years: SFY 2021-22, SFY 2022-23, SFY 2023-24, SFY 2024-25, SFY 2025-26. 3. SFY 2025-26 data is as of February 28, 2026. 2. Providers were included in the state fiscal year analysis if they were a Certified Provider and had a Subsidy Agreement or had no Subsidy Agreement on file but had Closed Days entered in PELICAN.

## Average Number of Closed Days per Provider by Month



### OCDEL Default Closed Days

Source: PELICAN; Notes: 1. Unless otherwise noted, all data shown in the visuals is based on the average across 5 fiscal years: SFY 2021-22, SFY 2022-23, SFY 2023-24, SFY 2024-25, SFY 2025-26. 3. SFY 2025-26 data is as of February 28, 2026. 2. Providers were included in the state fiscal year analysis if they were a Certified Provider and had a Subsidy Agreement or had no Subsidy Agreement on file but had Closed Days entered in PELICAN.

WHEN ARE PROVIDERS USING CLOSED DAYS?

## WHAT WE HEARD

- Providers use all 15 days for **holidays & PD**, leaving **no flexibility for emergencies**
- **Unpaid closures create significant financial strain** and impact staff retention
- Current policy may **drive risk-based decisions** (staying open in unsafe conditions)
- **Knowledge gaps** exist for newer/smaller providers
- **PSS system works well**, but usage varies by provider type

## WHAT TO CONSIDER:

- Any policy shift must balance **flexibility, fiscal responsibility, and provider sustainability** while maintaining **health and safety**

### Strengthen Provider Supports

- Improve:
  - **Onboarding for new providers**
  - **Clear, consistent guidance**
  - **Awareness and use of PSS tools**
- Target supports for **family & group providers**

### Use Data with Context

- Review:
  - Use of pre-populated 7-day defaults
  - Patterns in closed day utilization
- Interpret alongside:
  - **Financial constraints driving provider decisions**
  - Potential **budget implications**

### Cost Consideration

- Review:
  - Estimated **utilization rates**
  - Frequency of **state-declared or weather-related closures**

# Regulation, Review, + Update

IMPROVING STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND SERVICE FOR PROVIDERS, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN

In 2021, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) began the multi-year process of reviewing and updating regulations that currently govern child care centers and family child care homes. This rewrite is an opportunity for the early childhood and school-age community in Pennsylvania to co-create regulations in a way that builds stakeholder confidence in the process and:

- Increases alignment with quality improvement
- Promotes greater impartiality; and,
- Decreases burden experienced by child care providers.

## WHAT HAPPENED SO FAR

### Project Initiation (Fall 2021)

- Research and benchmarking conducted in partnership with national technical assistance partners
- Internal Workgroups (IWGs) established and organized by regulatory topic areas
- Planning for collaboration with the early childhood community through an Ad Hoc Subcommittee

### Project Planning (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

- IWGs and external engagement kick-off to establish the intent, goals, and use of the Guiding Questions to shape the proposed regulations
- IWGs assemble; begin to review existing regulations and draft proposed regulations

### Initial Review (Spring-Summer 2022)

- Review of drafted, proposed regulations by Ad Hoc Subcommittee and Internal Reviewers
- IWGs edit based off feedback from ad hoc and internal reviewers

### External Engagement & Feedback (Summer-Fall 2022)

- Feedback sought from external stakeholders and public; updates made based on ECE field input
- Continued drafting of proposed regulations

### Preliminary Leadership Review (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)

- Initial review by DHS Legal and Policy staff

### Internal Review and Revisions (Spring 2023-present)

- Updates made based on initial review by DHS Legal and Policy staff
- In-depth review and analysis by internal OCDEL staff with lens toward applicability, provider burden and potential school age implication
- OCDEL Exec Leadership Review of proposed regulation package



## WORK TO COME

### Proposed Regulatory Review (Next step)

- Review of proposed package by DHS leadership and Governor's Office
- Review of proposed package by Office of Attorney General
- Submit to IRRC, legislative oversight committees, and legislative standing committees
- Publication in PA Bulletin for comment period

### Final Form Revisions & Review (TBD)

- Review of feedback from IRRC, public comments and updates made as needed
- Final internal review
- Submission to IRRC and legislative oversight committees
- IRRC public meeting, if approved:
  - Submit to Office of Attorney General Review
  - Submit to Legislative Reference Bureau for final-form publication

### Final Publication anticipated mid-year 2028 with one year for providers to come into compliance

- Implementation supports to be developed including guidance, training, and technical assistance



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
YOUR FEEDBACK!**

*We appreciate all feedback to date and look forward to continued engagement as the proposed certification regulations progresses to formal public comment (anticipated Spring 2027).*



# CERTIFICATION INSPECTION INSTRUMENTS

[DHS Webpage: Child Care Regulations](#)

On this webpage, you will find:

- The Regulations
- What to Expect During Inspection Video
- CII worksheets and forms for
  - Centers
  - Groups
  - Family
  - School Age

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The Confluence Podcast - The Pennsylvania Key



**The Confluence Podcast**

A STARTING POINT FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION SERVICES  
Confluence means a flowing together. In a literal sense, it's about rivers. But it's more often used to talk about the coming together of factors or ideas. Join us for our monthly podcast that will take you on a journey to understand the complexities of OCDEL's Bureau of Certification Services DHS Certification Services Bureau in partnership with stakeholders across the commonwealth, most importantly Early Childhood providers, children, and families.



# QUESTIONS/ CONCERNS FOR OCDEL

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**EARLY LEARNING  
RESOURCE CENTER**  
 OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING

# ELRC 15 DELWARE COUNTY - UPDATES

**LOCATION:** 2098 WEST CHESTER PIKE SUITE 102 **TOLL FREE:** 888-535-2217 **MAIN:** 610-480-3191

## Keystone STARS

### ▪ **Early Childhood Community Stakeholders Invited: Spring Into Action on Lead Poisoning Conference**

- Join us for a powerful morning of ideas, connection, and action! This regional conference brings together residents, community leaders, and partners from Delaware County and beyond to tackle one critical goal: preventing lead exposure and building healthier, safer communities for everyone.
- If you have any immediate questions, please email [leadfreepromiseproject@childrenfirstpa.org](mailto:leadfreepromiseproject@childrenfirstpa.org)
- Details
  - Thursday, 5/7, 9:00am – 12:30pm
  - East Lansdowne Borough Hall, 155 Lexington Ave. East Lansdowne, PA 19050,
  - Registration starts at 8:30am

### ▪ **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Award Final Expense Reports Past Due**

- Providers who received a 2025–2026 Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Award, please complete and submit a Final Expense Report (FER) immediately. Final Expense Reports were due on March 27, 2026.

## Resource & Referral

- WIC Tuesdays
  - ELRC 15 is now tabling at WIC clinics in Springfield, Eddystone, and Upper Darby on a rotating basis every Tuesday!
- Upcoming events
  - Family Storytime – Thursday, 4/30, 10:30-11:00am, Haverford Free Library, 1601 Darby Road, Havertown, PA 19083
  - The History of Sports in Chester Story Book Walk – Saturday, 5/2, 11am-3pm, Eyre Park, S Eyre Dr, Chester, PA 19013
  - ChesPenn Women's Health Fair – Friday, 5/8, 1:00-4:00pm, ChesPenn Health Services, 125 E 9th St, Chester, PA 19013

## Provider Services

- Attendance invoices are due on the 5th of every month in order to be paid on the 20th.
- Invoices should not be submitted prior to the end of the service month.
- Invoices may be submitted on the 1st of every month.
- Attendance invoices must be signed and dated. Please send invoicing questions and concerns to [ELRC15provider@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15provider@phmc.org).

## ELRC 16 BUCKS COUNTY - UPDATES

EMAIL: [ELRC16@CSCINC.ORG](mailto:ELRC16@CSCINC.ORG)

PHONE: 215-486-2524 OR TOLL FREE: 833-229-6928

WEBSITE: <HTTPS://ELRC-CSC.ORG>

### Provider Supports:

- **Monthly Bucks County Directors' Network Meetings**

- **Alternate between in-person and virtual monthly meetings**

Register here: [Coaches' Calendar April 2026](#)

- **Monthly Provider Link Newsletter: [Provider Link Newsletter April 2026](#)**

- Want to add staff or other members of your team to this newsletter? Email [estair@cscinc.org](mailto:estair@cscinc.org) and let her know to add you to the Region 16 distribution list

## ELRC 17 MONTGOMERY COUNTY - UPDATES

- ELRC 17 is hosting Parent Café Events at Child Care Providers in Montgomery County. This is a great Family Engagement Opportunity. Reach out to your Quality Coach to schedule an event at your center.
- ELRC 17 next Local Leadership Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 29th, from 1-3:00pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. All Community Partners, and Child Care Providers in Montgomery County are encouraged to attend.
- ELRC 17 next Health & Safety Regional Taskforce Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20th from 1-2:30pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. All Community Partners, and Child Care Providers in Montgomery County are encouraged to attend.
- ELRC 17 Monthly Newsletter is sent via our Quality Coaches each month. Our newsletter is posted on our website: [www.montcopa.org/elrc](http://www.montcopa.org/elrc)

## ELRC I8 PHILADELPHIA - UPDATES

**Step into leadership with confidence at our Director's Bootcamp on May 29!**

- This power-packed, full-day in-person training is designed for new and veteran center directors who want to strengthen their leadership skills, deepen their understanding of quality standards, and elevate their programs.
- Participants will dive into essential topics including staffing and onboarding, curriculum and program evaluation, family engagement, community partnerships, and effective leadership practices.
- With hands-on activities, real-world scenarios, and practical tools you can use immediately, this Bootcamp is your opportunity to grow, connect, and lead with purpose. Please reach out to the **[ELRCI8provider@phmc.org](mailto:ELRCI8provider@phmc.org)** email if you're interested.

## ELRC 19 CHESTER COUNTY - REMINDERS

*Contact ELRC 19 for assistance or additional information*

- **Free Health & Safety Targeted Coaching Available:** Provider requested support for onsite coaching to strengthen practices such as diapering, hand washing, sanitizing, etc. Additional topics include medication administration, diagnosis supports, contagious disease mitigation, etc. Contact your Quality Coach for more information and to request services.
- **Summer Kick off Resource Fair**– Save the date, June 2nd in person. Open house 11-2PM, light refreshments, raffle prizes and loads of resources!
- **Newsletter** - Subscribe to our newsletter by clicking on the subscription box on our website: <https://www.elrc-phmc.org/19>

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- **1-Minute Exit Survey:**

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/uvs8QgcddX?origin=IprLink>

- **PQAS Hours Request Form:**

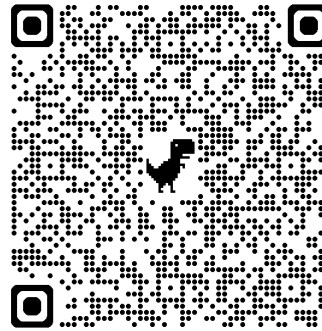
<https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j>

- **Upcoming Meetings:** 12:30-2:30pm

- May 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tue)
- June 23

- **Meeting Slides, Recording & Registration Links**

<https://www.firstup.org/advocacy/#sepecc>





**SEPECC**

Advancing quality early care  
and education in Bucks, Chester,  
Delaware, Montgomery and  
Philadelphia Counties

## 2025-2026 SEPECC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

### Steering Committee

Zakiyyah Boone (Co-Chair)  
Melanie Brennan (Co-Chair)  
Ebony Baggett  
Jackie Groetsch  
Kia Douglass  
Latonta Godboldt  
Laverne Cheeseboro  
Mary Graham  
Melody Connell  
Minnette Taylor  
Sharon McClafferty  
Shineal Hunter  
Tracey Triolo

### Advocacy Workgroup

Eleanor Levie  
Laverne Cheeseboro  
Lisa Iliopoulos  
Mercedes Fleet Mount  
Nicole Fetherman  
Shineal Hunter  
Shirlee Howe  
Sim Loh

### Social Media Workgroup

Eleanor Levie  
Shar'on Brown Carroll  
Sim Loh

### Advisory Council

Elizabeth Ozer  
Khadijah Sabir  
Maddy Malis  
MaryKay Mahar  
Norma Finkelstein  
Pamela Haines

WE L♥VE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

April 2026