ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

* ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED.
* PLEASE SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS IN THE CHAT BOX.
* FIND MEETING RECORDING & SLIDES AT: https://www.firstup.org/advocacy/#sepecc

SEPECC Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2026



Meeting will begin at 12:30pm

Agenda:

12:30 Welcome
12:40 Budget & Policy Updates
12:55 Advocacy in Action
1:15 OCDEL, DHS & ELRCs Updates
1:35 Community Partners
1:45 Wrap Up

Language Justice
Justicia del lenguaje

Community Language Cooperative

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 cómodes y conectades: el idioma de su corazón.

We will be using interpretation as a tool for opening communication

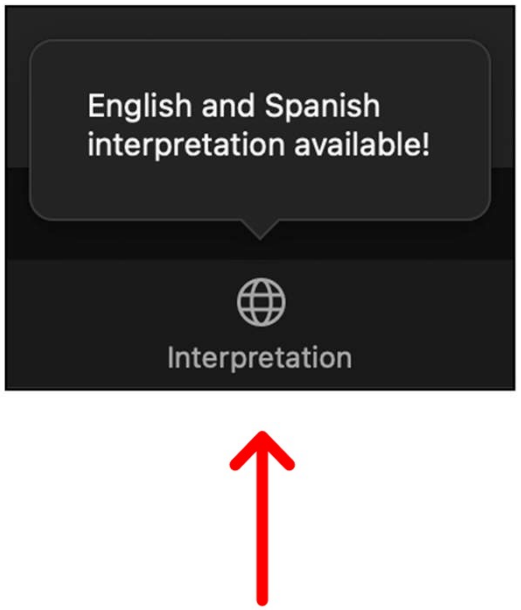


Usaremos la interpretación como una herramienta para expandir la comunicación.

Zoom Interpretation/ Interpretacion por Zoom

Community Language Cooperative

- 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

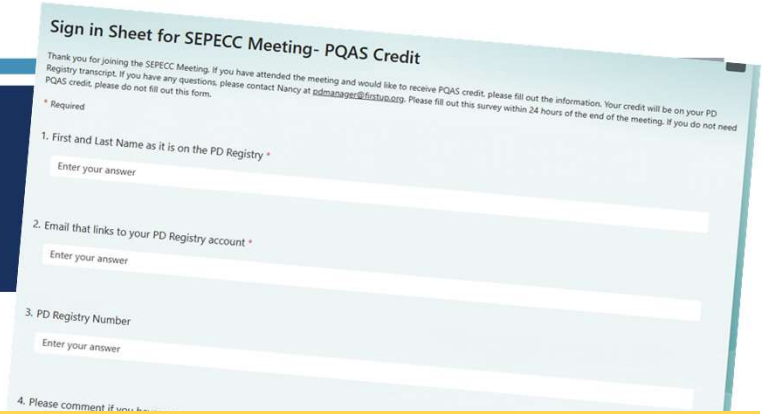
Community Language Cooperative

- 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

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@firstup.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 h

IMPORTANT UPDATE:
The link to the PQAS Hours Request Form is available at the end of the Exit Survey.

Thank you in advance for your 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.

[SEPECC Meeting Exit Survey - October 27, 2026 – Fill out form]

EXIT SURVEY SAYS...

What is the biggest source of stress in your work as an early educator right now?

Staffing, turnover, hiring = 50%

Financial, money, costs = 32%

Families, parents = 9%

Time, workload = 9%

What about you? Tell us in the chat.



CONGRATULATIONS, CHILDREN'S VILLAGE!





50 Years

of sharing wonder every day

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

UPDATES
- LOCAL-

JACKIE GROETSCH,
FIRST UP

First Up
Champions for Early Education

Bucks, Montgomery, Greater Philadelphia

About Common Source

Common Source is led by The Stronger Together Collective, steered by the Nonprofit Center and the Center for Leadership Equity and Black Nonprofit Chief Executive Professionals (BNCEP), with regional partners: C3 (Bucks-Mont Collaborative, Tri-County Community Network, and Interagency Council of Norristown), the Nonprofit Repositioning Fund, Generocity, and Equal Measure.

Philadelphia

PHLpreK

Added **100** PHLpreK seats, totaling **5,350** seats across 239 locations, with **97%** of classrooms now meeting the state's high-quality standards.

BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES

- STATE -

KIMBERLY EARLY,

PENNAEYC

pennaeyc

Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children

State Budget Process:

- August - October 2026: All state agencies are asked to submit their budget requests to the Governor's budget office.
- November 2026 - January 2027: Governor's budget office develops their 2027-2028 budget proposal.
  - Early Learning PA Coalition meets with the Administration to discuss the coalitions priorities.

State Legislation:

- Act 68 of 2026 - Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors in Child Care Facilities (HB 928)
- Act 113 of 2026 - Annual Report on Children Facilities (SB 1372)
- Child Care Facility Notice Closure (HB 2492)
- Universal Child Care Task Force (SB 1474)

Federal Updates:

- Head Start Proposed Rule
- Congress returns November 9

State Budget Process & Legislation

BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES

- FEDERAL-

MARY GRAHAM,

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Tell Congress: Protect Head Start

EMAIL CONGRESS

Protect Head Start and Early Head Start

CALL CONGRESS

Protect Head Start and Early Head Start

TAKE ACTION

Contact Congress - Think Babies™


ADVOCACY
IN
ACTION!



SHIRLEE HOWE
SHIRLEEH@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG

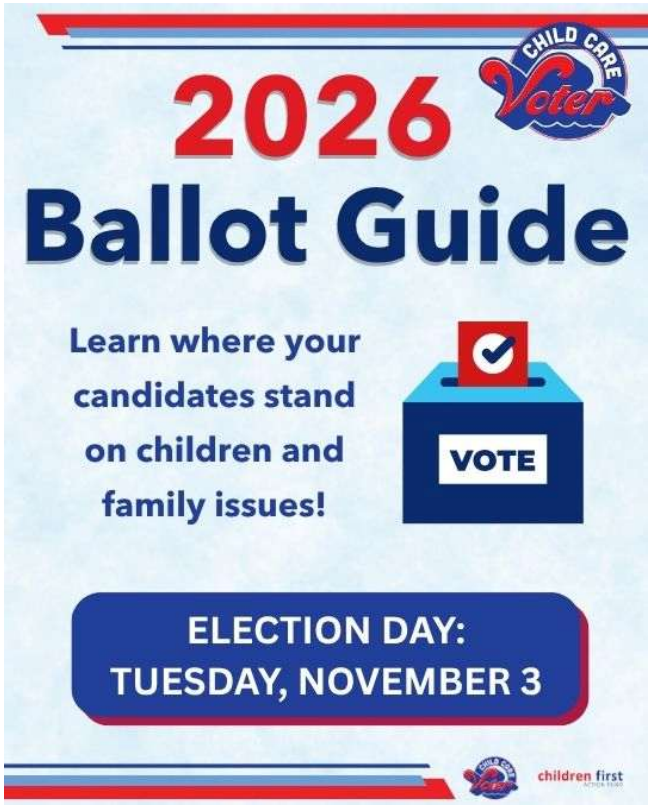
2026 GENERAL ELECTION

- **Tuesday, November 3rd General Election!**
- Races up for election
  - Governor & Lt. Governor
  - State House
  - State Senate
  - US Congress
  - Local races
- **Child care and early learning are on the ballot!**



2026 BALLOT GUIDE

- **Child Care Voter Ballot Guide**
  - Issued candidate survey and pledge to all state and federal candidates for office
  - Asked 10 questions about child care, early learning, and paid leave
  - Record breaking numbers of candidates and incumbents completed survey!
  - Results published at https://www.childrenfirstactionfund.org/2026-ballot-guide



2026 BALLOT GUIDE CONTINUED

- **2026 Ballot Guide**
  - Visit the guide to see where candidates stand on child care, early learning, and paid family leave.
  - Enter your address to see the candidates on your ballot.
  - Review their responses in one place.
  - The guide is 100% nonpartisan. It shares information so voters can make their own choices.
  - Please share with families!



Your U.S. Congressional Candidate Respc

Question 1

Do you believe that the first three years of life matter to a child's development ar most when they attend high-quality child care programs that have talented staff establish a strong foundation of infants' and toddlers' developmental skills?

State Rep. Chris Rabb
(DEM, US House 3)

YES

Question 2

Pennsylvania loses more than $6 billion annually in lost wages, productivity, and lack of affordable, accessible child care.

Do you agree that the federal government should prioritize sustained, significant and pre-k to support children, working families, businesses, and the economy?

GET VOTER READY!

- **Commit to Vote for Child Care Champions!**
  - Complete this form to commit to vote for child care champions!
  - We'll follow up with you
  - Remember, who you voted for is private but whether you voted or not is public.
- **Important Deadlines!**
  - Apply for a mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. today, October 27.
  - Election day polls are open 7am-8pm



VOTING BY MAIL

- Completed ballot must be received by your county election office by 8 p.m. on November 3.
- If mailing it may cause it to arrive late, drop it at to your county election office or an official drop box.
- If you decide to vote in person, bring your unreturned ballot and outer envelope to your polling place and surrender them
- **Visit https://vote.pa to request a mail ballot, find you polling place, drop box, and more!**



CHILD CARE Voter

children first ACTION FUND

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

- **Share** 2026 Ballot Guide
- Center Election Poster
  - CCV created nonpartisan election poster for providers to display at center
  - Poster includes voting information and key deadlines, details on key races, and nonpartisan resources
  - **Download Here!**
  - If you'd prefer a printed copy mailed to you, please contact Shirlee Howe at **shirleeh@childrenfirstpa.org**



ELECTION DAY ISSUES

- Run into problems voting? Call the Voter Hotline!
  - English
    - 1-866-687-8683
  - Spanish
    - 1-888-839-8682)
  - Other Languages
    - 1-888-274-8683



THANK YOU!

- Thank you for making your voice heard in this important election!
- Please follow Child Care Voter on social media or sign up for our email list to get more involved!



- Facebook



- Instagram



- Sign Up for Email



ELEANOR LEVIE

VOLUNTEER

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

SEPECC ADVOCACY & SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEES

HOW YOU CAN GET OUT THE VOTE

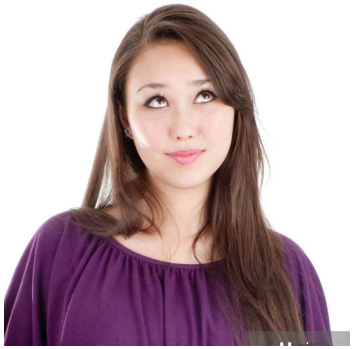


AS A PROFESSIONAL:

INFLUENCING STAFF, COLLEAGUES AND FAMILIES:

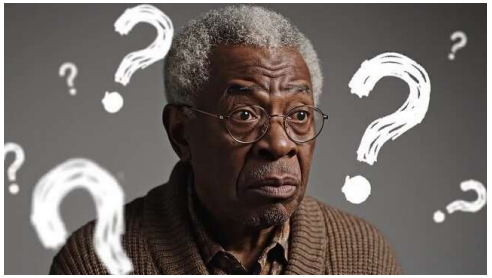
- *BE NON-PARTISAN*
- *BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR OUR DEMOCRACY & OUR RESPONSIBILITIES*
- *BE A MODEL IN DEMANDING OUR RIGHTS*
- *BE A MENTOR, HELPING TO RAISE EVERYONE'S VOICE*
- *BE A FIGHTER FOR OUR KIDS AND OUR FAMILIES*

HOW YOU CAN GET OUT THE VOTE



ON A PERSONAL BASIS:

A lot of people, 18+, 80+, and in between, love you and look up to you.







- BE A **MENTOR**!
- BE A CARING **INFLUENCER**
- BE AS **INVOLVED** & **ENGAGED** AS YOU WANNA BE!

START A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR LOVED ONES



Hi, Honey, It's me. Have a few minutes to talk? How you doin'?

Can I share why I'm voting next Tuesday?

Yeah, I respect your opinions, and I know things are really frustrating right now. I know a lot of folks who don't wanna follow the news or bother to vote. But I think you are smart, important, and you care. I believe your vote can really make a difference, and you can get your friends to vote, too.

Did you know that in Pennsylvania and in the US, the people elected to office make decisions about laws, budgets, policies, and priorities that affect our communities every day? They help decide which issues get attention, what proposals move forward, and how government works.

Do you want things to stay the same, or change? Either way, **VOTING IS HOW YOU MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

So will you vote? I would be so proud of you. Oh, and can you take Grampa to the polls?

ADVOCACY FOR **HEAD START!**

TAMMY PRESLEY HARRIS, MHS
DIRECTOR OF INTERVENTION AND DEVELOPMENT
BRIGHTSIDE ACADEMY

MELANIE BRENNAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS
KENCREST

ADVOCACY FOR HEAD START IN WASHINGTON, DC. WITH CHILDREN FIRST & PA HEAD START ASSOCIATION

BY TAMMY PRESLEY HARRIS









TOGETHER,
ADVOCATES MET WITH

BOTH US SENATORS
&
16 OF PA'S
CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION,

TELLING THEM FIGHT
FOR HEAD START!

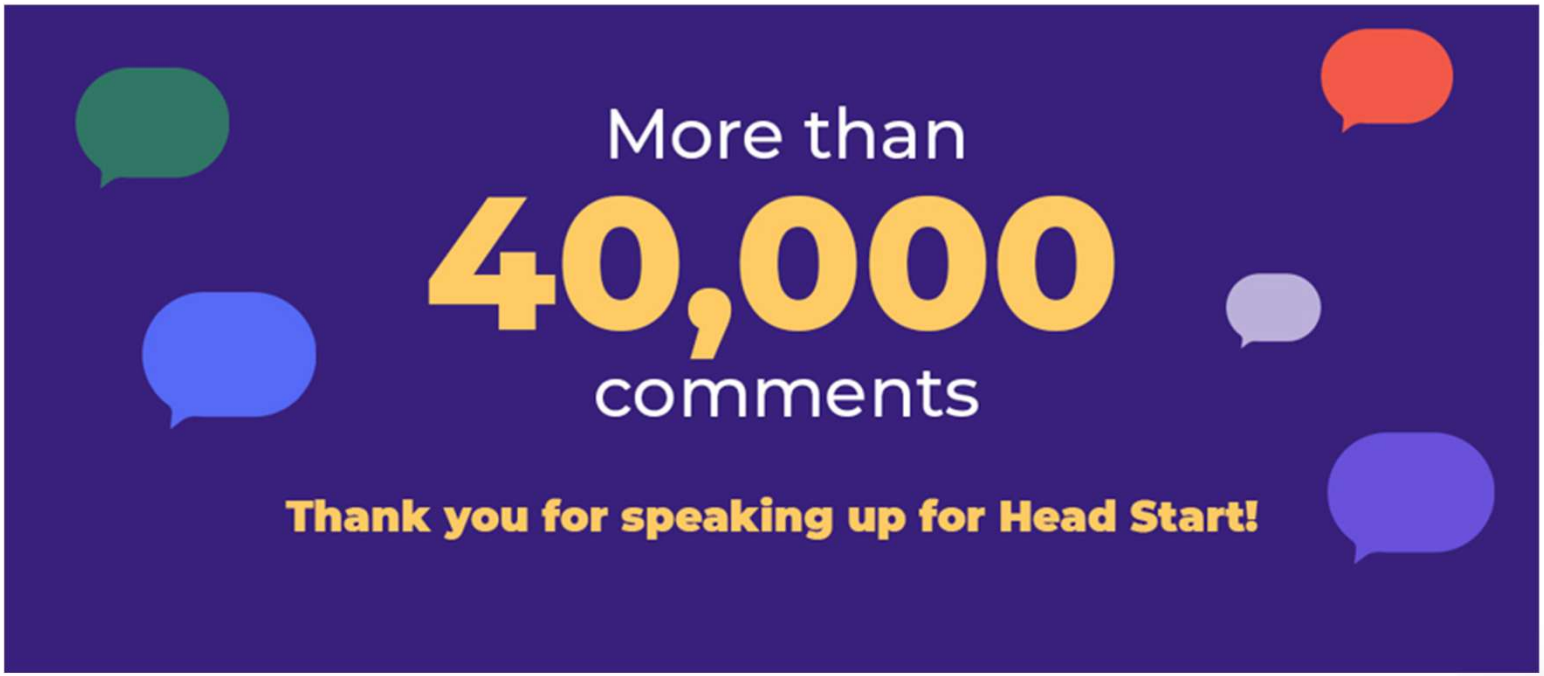








WHAT'S NEXT?
BY MELANIE BRENNAN





ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

ROSANNA MATOS
SENIOR PUBLIC POLICY SPECIALIST
ROSANNA.MATOS@FIRSTUP.ORG

First Up
Champions for Early Education

FIRST UP ECE ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP



Embark on a transformative journey to unlock your full leadership potential and ignite change in the dynamic world of early childhood education. This immersive Fellowship begins with a deep exploration of your personal leadership strengths and growth areas, setting the stage for a profound learning experience.

Throughout this empowering fellowship, you will dive into the foundational pillars of leadership and advocacy within the early childhood education landscape.

THE BENEFITS:

- Increase your ECE knowledge
- Strengthen your advocacy skills
- Gain 27+ Leadership hours for your PQAS profile
- Build your professional network through peer relationships

REGISTER TODAY

SCAN HERE

Contact Rosanna.Matos@firstup.org or James.nicolson@firstup.org For More Information!

Information Sessions

September 30th at 1pm
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eGczM59sT52H3bpPrG8J-A

-OR-

October 27th at 6:30pm
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0769qYy1QnO2tlTW-k-JEQ

First Up

Champions for Early Education

LEADERSHIP EMPOWERMENT & ACTION PROGRAM RETREAT

JOIN US FOR A GATHERING OF ECE FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI



November 14, 2026
9am – 3pm
Cranaleith Spiritual Center
(13475 Proctor Rd, Phila, PA 19116)

SCAN HERE

Interested In Joining First Up's ECE Fellowship?

This free action-packed day will include networking over breakfast, a panel featuring alumni from First Up's ECE Fellowship program and **OCDEL Deputy Secretary Shante' Brown**, collaborate on leadership and advocacy activities, and enjoy time together in a beautiful setting.



Childcare CHANGEMAKERS

a project of Community Change Action

Monthly National Calls

7pm on…

- 10/28/2026
- 11/18/2026
- 12/30/2026

PARENT PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE (PPA)





OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements

NETTA RADZINSKI
OCDEL

ASIA SHEPPARD & JAMILA DASHIELL
DHS

MANDY MCHALE FOR
ELRC REGIONS 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Pennsylvania
Office of Child Development and Early Learning

NETTA RADZINSKI

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV

2026–2027 CHILD CARE STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION (CCSRR) PROGRAM TIMELINE

- October 13, 2026: CCSRR Application posted to DHS and PA Key Websites
- October 13, 2026 – November 30, 2026: CCSRR Application submission period
- November 30, 2026: Last day application will be accepted by the ELRC
- March 2027: OCDEL will release a Special Announcement to providers of the final bonus amount
- End of March - Beginning of April: ELRC timeframe to release Recruitment and Retention Bonus payments to qualified providers
- March 26, 2027 – September 17, 2027: Provider timeframe to release Recruitment Bonus payments to newly hired, qualified staff.
- September 17, 2027: Last day for providers to spend Recruitment award funds

2026-2027 CHILD CARE STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM (CCSRRP) PROCEDURAL CHANGES

OCDEL has implemented several process improvements for the 2026-2067 CCSRRP to streamline the application procedure and reduce administrative burden.

- OCDEL has removed the requirement to update a staff person's hire date and position title in the PD Registry.
- OCDEL used more flexible language in our Policy Announcements to avoid providers having to submit an amendment when the final award amount is calculated.
- Legislative changes allow providers to spend funds after the end of the fiscal year, giving more time for recruitment efforts.
- ELRCs will host office hours to assist providers completing the CCSRRP application.

NEW, STREAMLINED PA DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL APPLICATION: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2027

What's changing and why?

- OCDEL is streamlining the Pennsylvania Director Credential application process to reduce administrative burden for early childhood professionals.
- Changes were informed by provider feedback and data identifying challenges with the existing application process.
- The updated process will reduce the number of required documents for initial and renewal applications.
- The goal is to make the credential more accessible while maintaining its value in recognizing leadership and administrative competencies.

WHAT APPLICANTS NEED TO KNOW

- Effective January 4, 2027: Streamlined application requirements will take effect.
- Initial and renewal applicants: Both application types will benefit from reduced documentation requirements.
- Current credential holders: No action is required solely because of these changes.
- Application access: Updated information and application instructions will be available through the Pennsylvania Professional Development (PD) Registry and Pennsylvania Key website.

TRANSITION TIMELINE AND RESOURCES

Dec. 1, 2026

- **Existing applications**
- Applicants with applications in progress may complete them by December 1 or cancel and begin a new application when the streamlined process opens.

Jan. 4, 2027

- **New process begins**
- Streamlined initial and renewal applications become available.

Where to find information and assistance

- Pennsylvania Key – Director Credential
- Email: dircred@pakeys.org
- Phone: 1-800-284-6031

MARKET RATE SURVEY RESULTS

- Review the Cost of Care in Pennsylvania: 2025 Market Rate Survey and Narrow Cost Analysis

- Review the overview of the MRS from the Institute of State and Regional Affairs (ISRA) during the State Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting on Monday, October 26, 2026 found here.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ASIA SHEPPARD
ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV

JAMILA DASHIELL
JDASHIELL@PA.GOV

WATER AND WATER PIPES

§3270.69/3280.69 Water

(b) Hot water temperature, in areas accessible to children, may not exceed 110° F

§3270.71/3280.71/3290.69. Hot water pipes and other sources of heat.

Hot water pipes and other sources of heat exceeding 110° F that are accessible to children shall be equipped with protective guards or shall be insulated to prevent direct contact

SPACE HEATERS

§ 3270.92. Space heaters.

(a) Portable space heaters are not permitted.

(b) A fixed space heater shall be approved for use by a local fire safety professional.

Written approval of the installation and written approval for use shall be on file at the facility.

(c) A fixed space heater shall be insulated or equipped with protective guards

§ 3280/3290.92. Space heaters.

(a) Portable space heaters, if allowed by local ordinance, may be used while children are in care, if the units are used in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions.

(b) Fixed and portable space heaters shall be insulated or equipped with protective guards.

(c) The manufacturer's instructions for use shall be kept in an accessible area in the facility.

(d) A fixed space heater shall be approved for use by a local fire safety professional.

Written approval of the installation and written approval for use shall be on file at the facility.

FIREPLACES

§ 3270/3280/3290.93. Fireplaces and woodburning and coalburning stoves.

Fireplaces, fireplace inserts or woodburning and coalburning stoves, if allowed by local ordinance, shall be securely screened or equipped with protective guards while in use.



MANDY MCHALE FOR
ELRC REGIONS 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
UPDATES

ELRC 15 - DELAWARE

- All grants must be emailed to the elrc15grants@phmc.org inbox in order to be accepted.

ELRC 17 UPDATES - MONTGOMERY

- 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, January 20th, 2027 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, February 10th, 2027 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

ELRC 18 - PHILADELPHIA

NOTE: Submission of CCSRR Awards to ELRC 18 is electronic!!!

Take a moment to read through the Policy Announcement and thorough information around eligibility, timelines, and FAQs on the PA Keys website. **When you are ready to apply, submit your application via this** Submission Link for ELRC 18 CCSRR Awards**.**

Questions? Reach out to ELRC18Grant@phmc.org or join one of our open office hours.

CCSRR Grant Support ELRC 18 Office Hours
Every Wednesday, October 21 through November 18, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

This is an opportunity to receive individualized support with the CCSRR application process. ELRC 18 Grant Specialists will be available to answer your questions, address concerns, and provide guidance to help you successfully complete your application. We encourage all interested applicants to attend and take advantage of this support opportunity.

Registration link for the open office hours: Meeting Registration - Zoom



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SWIFT Support

ERIN DONAHUE
DIRECTOR OF SWIFT SUPPORT
KENCREST

EST 1905
KenCrest
120 YEARS OF SERVICE

SWIFT Support

Erin Donahue

KenCrest
Your Dreams. Our Mission.

From frustration and exclusion

to connection and inclusion

Suspension and Expulsion Definitions

Suspension

Being sent to the Director's office

Being sent home in the middle of the day

Only being allowed to come during specific time periods (e.g. 2 days per week or between 9:00-11:30)

Expulsion

Being dismissed from the center

"We don't think we are equipped to support your child"

"You need a 1:1 support person in order to participate"

KenCrest
Your Dreams. Our Mission.

All Behavior Has Meaning

"I'm bored"

"I'm overstimulated"

"I do not know what to do"

"I need attention"

"I can't tell you what I need"



KenCrest
Your Dreams. Our Mission.

What is SWIFT Support?

LIVE behavioral support and coaching in your early learning classroom

We partner with educators and families when a child struggles with behavior or daily routines.

Understanding behavior

Explore what a child may be communicating through behavior.

Practical strategies

Work with the adults around the child to respond with confidence.

Connection and inclusion

Strengthen relationships and reduce the risk of classroom removals or expulsion.

Philadelphia, Delaware and Bucks County providers

SWIFT Support Data

March 2021 – June 2024

176	Total Referrals
15	Number of children that left their childcare center
18	Number of Children Suspended/Expelled
143	Number of children that remained at the childcare center

Resources and Contact Information

Contact Information:

swiftsupport@kencrest.org

Erin Donahue: Erin.Donahue@kencrest.org

Professional Learning

ALIX COZEN, M.ED.
SENIOR EARLY LEARNING SPECIALIST
FIRST UP

First Up
Champions for Early Education

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DIVISION

professional development

First Up Professional Learning can:

- Bring a training to YOUR site that is planned especially for YOUR staff
- We are currently planning fall 2026 to spring 2027; schedule with Alix Cozen at your earliest convenience.
- Go to First Up's website to view our catalog
- https://www.firstup.org/professionals/professional-learning/

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DIVISION

professional development

SCHEDULE YOUR **2027** PD TODAY

contact | alix.cozen@firstup.org

- **Meeting Exit Survey:**
  https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/XEFPZXc9wx

- **PQAS Hours Request Form link is available at end of Exit Survey.**

- **Upcoming Meetings: 12:30-2:00pm**
  - Nov. 17 *(3rd Tuesday)*
  - Dec. 15 *(3rd Tuesday)*

- **Meeting Slides, Recording & Registration Links**
  https://www.firstup.org/advocacy/#sepecc



SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION

SEPECC

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

2026-2027 SEPECC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Steering Committee

Zakiyyah Boone(Co-Chair)
Melanie Brennan (Co-Chair)
Andrea Sampson
Ebony Baggett
Judi Clyman
Kia Douglass
Laverne Cheeseboro
Mary Graham
Melody Connell
Minnette Taylor
Rosaida Iraola
Shineal Hunter
Sharon McClafferty
Jackie Groetsch

Advocacy Workgroup

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

Advisory Council

Khadijah Sabir
MaryKay Mahar
Norma Finkelstein
Elizabeth Ozer
Pamela Haines

Social Media Workgroup

Eleanor Levie
Sim Loh

September 2026