

We envision Illinois as a place where every young child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, geography, ability, immigration status, or other circumstance – receives the strongest possible start to life so that they grow up safe, healthy, happy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

Illinois Early Learning Council
December 6, 2021, 1:00-3:00 PM

Join via [Webex](#) | Meeting Number: 2452 598 5332 | Meeting Password: NjXQbsmG473
If joining by phone, dial: 1-312-535-8110

Agenda

1:00 Welcome & Introductions (10 min)

Materials:

- ELC November 2021 Meeting Minutes

1:10 **Build Back Better Status Update & Level Set** (5 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Martin Torres, ELC Co-chair & Deputy Governor for Education, Office of the Governor
- Phyllis Glink, ELC Co-chair & Executive Director, Irving B. Harris Foundation

Materials:

- Please visit the [Build Back Better page on the GOECD website](#)

1:15 **ELC Structure Review & Discussion** (60 min)

Review of ELC Structure Chart (10 min)

- Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD)

Breakout Groups (20 min)

- Facilitation: GOECD Team

Share & Discuss (30 min)

In Materials:

- ELC Structure (draft)

Discussion Questions:

- Does this proposed ELC Structure work?
 - Are any major initiatives missing?
 - Do the committee names adequately describe the key initiatives they are to hold?
 - What adjustments, if any, would you recommend?
- Do you feel the anticipated planning work for Build Back Better is integrated in a way that makes sense and will allow the ELC to advise the State in a meaningful way?

Racial Equity Definition: A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Racial Equity Priorities:

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;
- 4) Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.

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2:15 Update: Consultation for the ELC (10 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Dr. Tonya D. Bibbs, Associate Professor, Erikson Institute
- Christy Cashman, Research Assistant, Erikson Institute

2:25 Regional & Community Systems (25 min)

Presenter/Facilitator:

- Cicely Fleming, Director, Regional & Community Systems Department, INCCRRA

2:50 Public Comments & Announcements (10 min)

Written updates included in the materials:

- Update: Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan
- Update: Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment

3:00 Closing Comments and Adjourn

Next Full Council Meeting:
Monday, February 28, 2022
11:00am-1:00pm (subject to change)

Additional ELC committee meetings will be scheduled and posted to the [ELC Meeting Schedule](#) on the GOECD website.

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