

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

November 16, 2020, 11:00AM-1:00 PM

Join via [Webex](#) | Meeting Number: 133 525 2806 | Meeting Password: 3p2QUgmJW2p

If joining by phone, dial: 1-312-535-8110

### Agenda

**11:00** Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of the Agenda (10 min)

**11:10** **Building Our Systems Back Better: Parts I & II** (55 min)

- Part I: Framing the Issues
  - Theresa Hawley, First Assistant Deputy Governor for Education (Governor’s Office)
- Part II: Breakout Discussion Groups
  - Group 1: Family Engagement, including Home Visiting
  - Group 2: Children’s Learning & Education Disruptions that Have Occurred Due to COVID-19
  - Group 3: Financing of Illinois’ Early Childhood Care and Education Systems, especially Child Care
  - Group 4: Workforce Preparation & Professional Development

*In materials:*

- Research:
  - Closer to Home: More Equitable Pre-K Access and Enrollment in Chicago
  - Preschool Development Grant Expansion: A Descriptive Study in Illinois
- Agendas & Plans:
  - Illinois Prenatal to Three Policy Agenda
  - Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5) Strategic Plan

**12:05** **Break** (10 min)

Please stay logged in to the Webex, remain on mute, and turn off your camera while we break.

**12:15** **Building Our Systems Back Better: Part III** (35 min)

- Part III: Share & Discuss

**12:50** Public Comments & Announcements

**1:00** Closing Comments and Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2021 - 11:00am - 2:00pm (subject to change)

**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.