

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 Full Committee Meeting

October 21, 2024, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Join from the meeting link

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m124adc876828e9ed13da03fac0b2bd67>

Meeting number (access code): 2866 006 3474

Meeting password: pyGiupAA582

#### Agenda

1. 5:30 p.m.: Welcome from the co-chairs Phyllis Glink & Martin Torres
  - a. Housekeeping
  - b. Updates from Governor's Office
2. 5:45 p.m.: Updates & Presentation on Transition Workgroups, Ann Whalen
3. 6:15 p.m.: Small Group Discussions in virtual breakout rooms
  - a. Breakout 1: Ongoing advising on current program operations (pre-transition)
    - i. What's the continued role for ELC on providing feedback to existing programs? What discussions should the co-chairs set-up for the council?
      1. Example: update on early childhood block grant RFSP and quality funding
  - b. Breakout 2: Feedback on transition workgroup process and representation
    - i. What's surprising? What are you curious about? What does this process communicate to the field?
  - c. Breakout 3: Feedback on workgroup topics
    - i. What jumped out at you? What questions do you have? What would you like to learn more about? What do you want to make sure is included in the conversation?
4. 7:00 p.m.: Report out
5. 7:15 p.m.: Council member announcements or updates
6. 7:25 p.m.: Public comment & Adjournment

**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.