

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 Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026
5:00-6:45:pm

Agenda

1. 5:00 p.m.: Welcome from the co-chairs Phyllis Glink & Martin Torres
2. 5:05 p.m.: Brief Ad Hoc Committee Update— Committee Co-Chairs
3. 5:10 p.m.: Status Update & Discussion
 - a. FY26 ECBG Update (15 minutes)
 - b. IDEC General Updates (20 minutes)
 - i. Home Visiting Appreciation Week Recap
 - ii. EC Courses Work
 - iii. Legislative update
 - iv. EUNA Grants update
 - v. IDEC high level org structure
4. 5:45 p.m.: Breakout groups re: Supporting a Seamless Transition (4 Groups)
 - a. *ORID questions about how people are feeling about the transition.*
 - i. *The “What” (Objective) - Ground in what is known / the facts.*
Both in what you have learned tonight and over the past weeks, months, years...
 - *What information and data stand out to you about the creation of and transition to IDEC going live?*
 - *What decisions have already been made, and which are still open?*
 - *What are you noticing right now?*
 - ii. *The “Gut” (Reflective) - Name your emotional and experiential responses.*
 - *What excites you most about the formation of IDEC and IDEC going live?*
 - *What concerns and uncertainties are coming up for you or your stakeholders?*
 - *What has felt surprising, confusing or encouraging so far?*
 - *What past experiences with systems change does this remind you of?*
 - iii. *The “So What” (Introspective) - Move from ‘how we feel’ to ‘what this means for the ‘field’*
 - *What themes are emerging from the reactions we just shared?*
 - *What opportunities does a unified early childhood agency create for families, providers, and communities?*
 - *What risks or gaps should the current IDEC team be aware of?*
 - *What principles should guide the transition to ensure equity, continuity and quality?*
 - iv. *The “Now What” (Decisional) - Convert insights into actionable guidance.*

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- *What does the breakout group want to elevate to the IDEC transition team? (The top 2-3 priorities)*
- *What commitments can the ELC make to support communication and stakeholder engagement during this critical transition time?*
- *What actions does this make each individual in this group want to take leaving this meeting?*

5. 6:15 p.m.: Agency Updates

- a. ISBE
- b. ICCB
- c. IBHE
- d. DPH
- e. HFS

6. 6:40 p.m.: Public Comment & Adjournment