

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 Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday July 22, 2025

1:30-2:00 pm

Join from the meeting link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m9d9cb2b3b991c470f3dac27fa2e23249>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2866 409 0801

Meeting password: fyPdvXpw443

Agenda

1. 1:30 p.m.: Welcome from the co-chairs Phyllis Glink & Martin Torres
3. 1:35 p.m.: Discussion on a proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Programs and Resources
4. 1:45 p.m.: Executive Committee vote on the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Programs and Resources
5. 1:50 p.m.: Public Comment
6. 2:00 p.m.: 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.