MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

October Data Advisory Commission Meeting

October 27, 2026

Agenda

Welcome

Agenda Preview

Updates on Data Advisory Commission FY26 Recommendations

- Formalizing the EEC research partnership process
- Planned updates to publicly available EEC data
- Update on EEC Professional Portal development

Logistical Items

- Approval of minutes from August 4, 2026
- Upcoming FY27 meeting dates

Formalizing EEC's Research Partnership Process

Current state

- ✓ Increased transparency about EEC's research priorities & projects
- ✓ Up-to-date research agenda
- ✓ Platform for external stakeholders to submit data requests

What we're hearing:



It's not always clear ***how to initiate a research partnership***

and/or

communicate with EEC *about research related to agency priorities*

Refining the process for researchers to engage with EEC

Why?

- Align with **cross-agency** research processes
- Operationalize **EEC's research agenda**
- Advance DAC's recommendations to **deepen research capacity** and external research partnerships
- Improve **accessibility** for external researchers

What's changing?

- Embedding an **online research proposal** in the E2C portal
- Establishing standardized **review criteria** applied by internal committee
- Creating a **consolidated guide for researchers** on using EEC data

What's *not* changing?

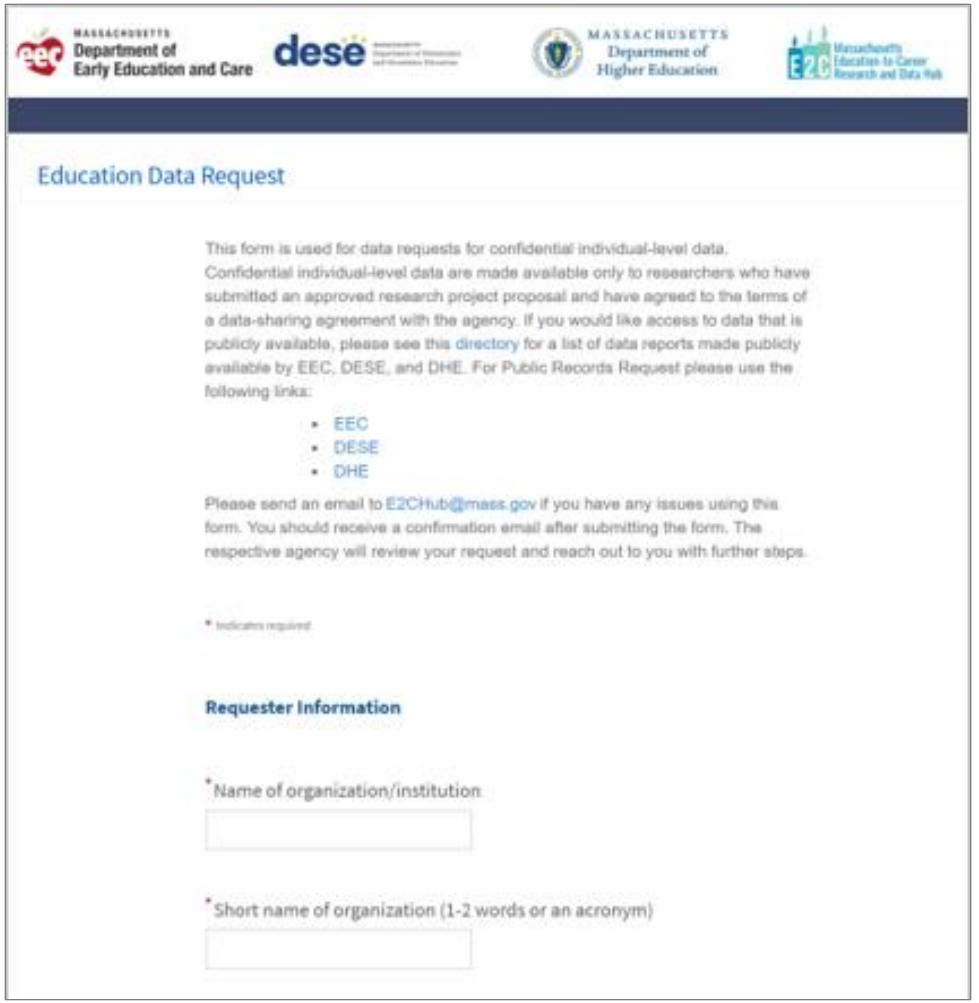
- Data request process via **GovQA**

Research proposal embedded in E2C portal

EEC is joining DESE and DHE, who are already utilizing the portal to streamline research requests.

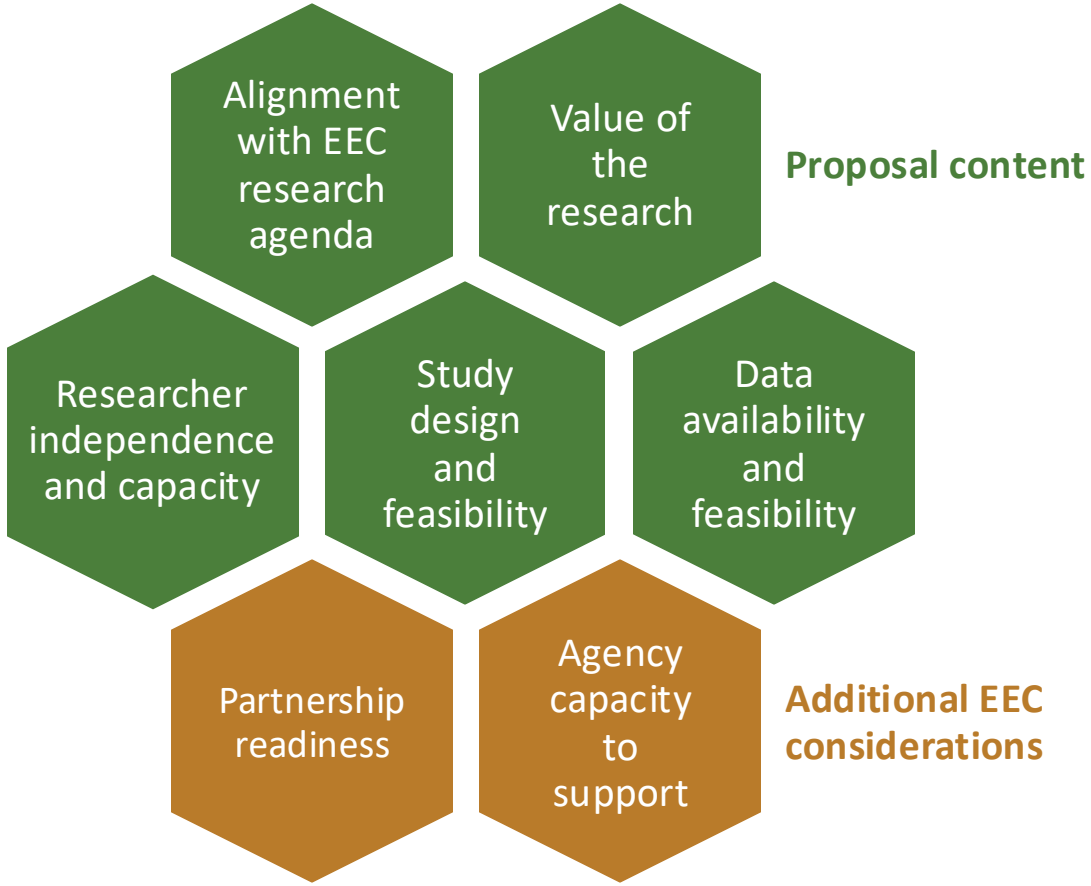
- Centralized place for EEC and cross-agency research requests
- Auto-email notifications at different points in the process
- Automated MOU creation if projects are approved

Access the E2C research request form



Review criteria applied by internal committee

Standardized review criteria will promote consistency in our review process and decision-making.



What does this look like in practice?

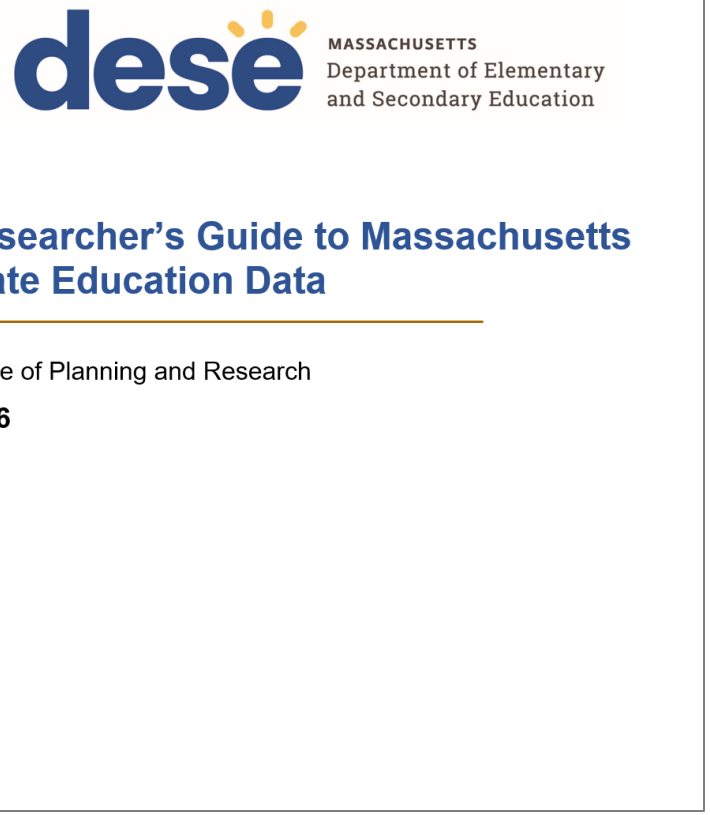
- **Internal review committee** comprised of EEC research and program staff.
- Committee members **review proposals against criteria** and align on whether to proceed with partnership.
- Criteria intended to structure committee discussion and **promote consistent review**.

Consolidated guide for researchers

A comprehensive guide for prospective and current researchers on partnering with EEC and utilizing EEC data

- Clarifies the process for engaging with EEC
- Consolidates with existing public data guide
- Modeled after DESE's Researcher's Guide

Model Guide



Discussion

Refining and formalizing EEC's research partnership process



1) What additional guidance would be helpful for organizations or researchers interested in using EEC data?

2) As EEC continues to build partnerships with external researchers, what are important considerations the agency should keep in mind from where you sit?

Planned Updates to EEC Publicly Available Data

EEC Publicly Available Data

RECENTLY RELEASED

CCFA caseload data now downloadable

Aggregate CCFA caseload data on KPI dashboard is now available for download through the E2C Hub.

Program data filterable by town

Users can filter the data on the licensed program and capacity data on the KPI dashboard by town.

COMING NEXT

1. **Supply and population dashboard**

   Developing a new dashboard to allow users to explore child population and supply of early education & care seats by region and town.

2. **Enrollment data in KPI dashboard**

   Adding enrollment data reported through C3 to the existing KPI dashboard.

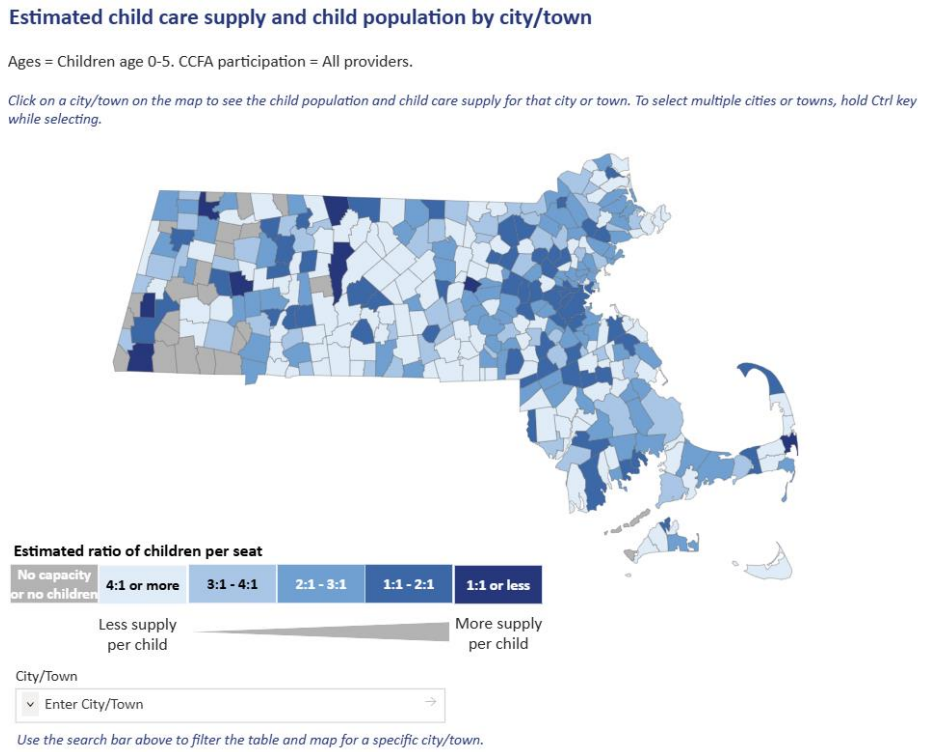
UNDER CONSIDERATION

3. **Considering new data on available capacity by age group**

   Considering a new C3 application question to allow programs to identify age groups for which they have available capacity/are actively seeking to enroll new children, for display on the Child Care Search.

Supply and Population Dashboard

Goal: Allow users to explore the relationship between child population and the supply of formal early education and out-of-school time care by geography (region and city/town).



What will be in the dashboard?

Child population data

Includes data on the number of children by age, household workforce participation, and income in a specific geography (region, city/town, etc.) based on data from the US Census.

Provider data

Includes data on the number and capacity of providers across the mixed delivery system, including EEC licensed centers and family child care programs, EEC funded programs, district public schools, and private schools, in a specific geography.

Overlay of population and formal supply

Includes map that overlays population and capacity data to allow users to understand the relationship between the child population and supply of seats across the mixed delivery system by geography and age group.

Discussion

Feedback on population and supply dashboard

This is EEC's first public-facing, city/town-level data that looks across the mixed delivery system.

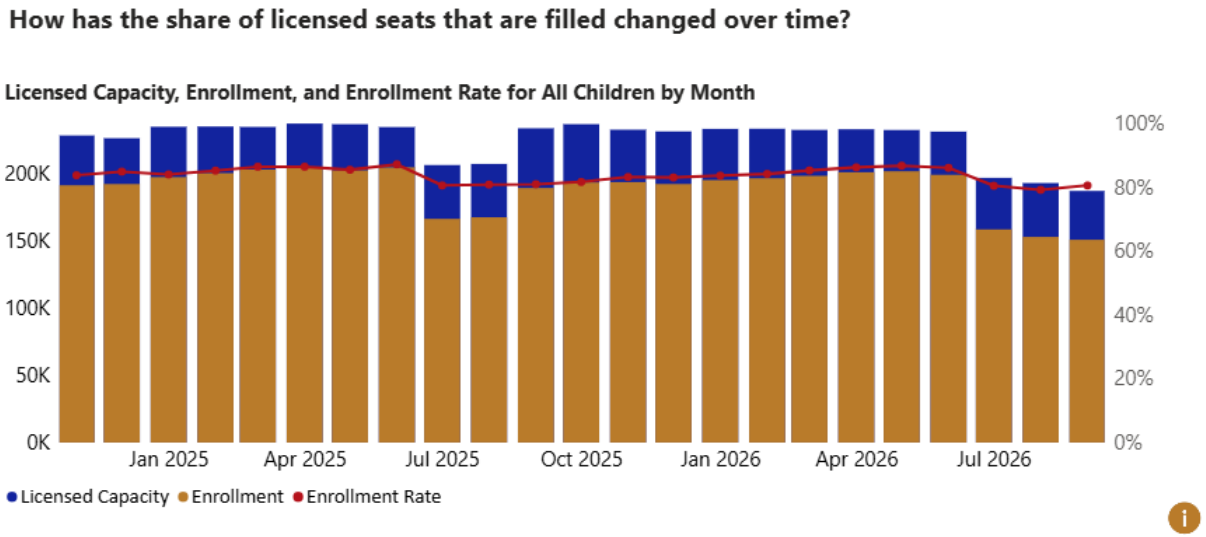
1) What data is most relevant for your work and what should EEC keep in mind as we prepare to release this data?

2) What are key questions of interest that these data could help answer to inform your work?

3) From your perspective, what additional data would be helpful to include and/or overlay with the existing data in the dashboard?

Enrollment Data

Goal: Allow KPI dashboard users to understand trends in the percent of license capacity filled with enrolled children over time



What will be in the dashboard?

Enrollment as a percent of license capacity

- Over time
- By program type
- By age group (infants/toddlers, preschool, school age)

Key assumptions…

- EEC collects data on children enrolled full time and part time. For this analysis, we assume that children age 0-5 who are enrolled part time are 0.5 FTEs.
- To view data by age group, we allocated mixed age group capacity proportionately across age groups.

Discussion

Feedback on enrollment data



1) Do the assumptions discussed (see previous slide) seem reasonable?

2) As we look to expand our analysis of enrollment data over time, are there other disaggregations or cuts of this data that are of particular interest?

Under Consideration: New Data on Seat Availability

Goal: Allow families using EEC's Child Care Search tool to identify programs that are currently actively enrolling new children, by age group

HOW MIGHT THIS WORK?

- Programs could indicate via monthly C3 applications whether, for each age group, they are:
  - Actively enrolling new children
  - Adding new children to a waitlist
  - Not enrolling new children at this time
- EEC would then pass this information to the Child Care Search, to make it visible for families

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1) Overall, does this idea seem reasonable?
2) Given your current enrollment practices, would you be able to easily answer questions about specific age groups for which you are actively enrolling new children versus adding children to a waitlist? How do you currently communicate this nuance to families?
3) Are there specific considerations that EEC should keep in mind regarding how to keep this data current/prevent sharing stale data with families?

Professional Portal Update

Professional Portal Goals

Goal: Centralized and accessible system for all professional advancement and learning

- Integrating all our current systems into one portal
  - Registration
  - Certification/ Credential application/ documentation
  - Identifying and accessing professional learning opportunities
    - Required trainings
    - Self-paced learning
    - Registration for Academy/ PDC opportunities
    - Centralized listing of all professional learning approved by EEC
    - Tracking of professional learning
- Integrated with LEAD to provide easy access to educator records within programs
- Reliable and comprehensive system of record for educator data

Professional Portal

EEC is consolidating and modernizing the tools that the ECE workforce use for their professional development to create a "one-stop shop" for educators, with a modern and user-friendly interface and to streamline EEC operations through improved administrative experiences.



PQR

Integrate professional registration process

StrongStart (LMS)

Integrate access to required trainings

Teacher Certification

Build improved process for applying for certifications

Program Admin Access

Build program-level view into educator qualifications

Educator Credential

Develop application process for new credential

Professional Portal – Key Workflows

The first stage of Professional Portal development involves updating and bringing existing workflows into one system. These include:

- Supporting the application, review, and issuance of educator certifications;
  - Educators currently apply in the new portal
  - Building interface to support review and approval by TQ
- Allowing educators to participate in and track ongoing professional learning;
  - As of 8/19, nearly 55,000 educators have accessed trainings through the portal
- Being the primary interface for current and aspiring professionals to register with the Commonwealth.
- Provide program level insight into staff qualifications

In the future: Once the new credentialing system rolls out, the portal will be the source of record for educator qualifications and advancement.

Professional Portal - Next Up

Continued releases of additional improvements and enhanced functionality and workflows:



What is coming:

- Update the EEC Certification process to speed up the process for supervisors to sign off on employee work, allow educators to see certification history and to speed up the EEC review time
- Move registration through the portal and deprecate the PQR system
- Develop program level dashboard where program leaders can check and document educator qualifications
- After credential design is complete, build application process in the portal

What does this mean for EEC educator data?

Now

- Able to more easily link data across various data systems—LMS , teacher certification, and (soon) registration.

Next
(Fall/Winter 2026)

- Once registry function is built into the new portal, will have better data on key characteristics of individuals currently in the EEC workforce

Later
(2027 and Beyond)

- Once LEAD integration and rostering is complete, programs will be able to see appropriate registry, certification, and LMS data for educators employed in their programs, and EEC will have a better picture of who is currently employed in programs across the state and how educators move across programs over time

Wrap Up and Logistics

Wrapping Up

Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2026 Commission meeting

Upcoming FY27 Data Advisory Commission Meetings

- January 26, 2027 at 1 pm
- April 27, 2027 at 1 pm

Appendix