



MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**



August Data Advisory Commission Meeting

August 4, 2026

Agenda

Welcome from Commissioner

Warm Up Activity

Data Advisory Commission FY26 Recommendations

FY26 Progress and Next Steps

- Expanding Public Access to EEC Research, Data, and Analyses
- Improving Data Quality and Streamlining Data Collection

Logistical Items:

- Approval of minutes from April 2026
- FY27 meeting dates



FY26 Commission Recommendations

FY26 Data Advisory Commission Recommendations

Identifying Key Questions and Data Needed to Understand the Landscape and Inform Policy Decisions

1. Maintain an up-to-date research agenda
2. Continue to build and deepen research capacity and external research partnerships
3. Develop and implement a multi-year plan to measure, track, and report on the data metrics identified in the agency's new 2026-2030 Strategic Action Plan.
4. Regularly assess data needs and gaps

Expanding Public Access to EEC Research, Data, and Analyses

5. Continue to expand and enhance its public-facing KPI dashboards.
6. Develop additional public-facing data briefs, tools, and resources and continue to share research findings through accessible reports and presentations.

Improving Data Quality

7. Continue to focus on developing new technology systems that are user-centered, accessible, and improve data quality.
8. Strengthen data quality across its systems by implementing consistent data standards, clearer guidance for data entry, validation processes, and ongoing quality monitoring.

Streamlining Data Collection

9. Explore additional opportunities to streamline data collection for families, educators, and programs and reduce administrative burden.



FY26 Progress and Next Steps: Expanding Public Access to EEC Research, Data, and Analyses



Recommendation 5: Continue to expand and enhance the agency's public-facing KPI dashboard

Updates

KPI Dashboard

- Updates to [EEC's KPI Dashboard](#) include:
 - Aesthetic and user experience updates to support users in navigating to the data needed to answer specific questions of interest
 -  – New data on private pay tuition
- Next month: Enhancements to Child Care Financial Assistance caseload data, allowing users to further break down and download key data

Purpose & High-level Goals

Tuition Data

- To better understand the range of tuition prices that families experience and how prices vary based on program and/or community characteristics
- This analysis helps us:
 - **Assess affordability** for families and where prices may be particularly burdensome and/or limiting access.
 - **Understand market dynamics** between tuition prices, cost of care, and CCFA rates.
 - **Track tuition over time** to monitor if/how prices are changing across the state.
 - **Conduct evidence-based decision-making** related to affordability initiatives and broader system investments.

Analytic Approach & Methodology

Tuition Data

- EEC licensed and funded programs currently enter their tuition rates in a variety of ways in the LEAD system, making statewide analysis challenging.
- EEC developed a standardized cleaning methodology to allow for meaningful analysis.
- For analysis purposes, tuition data are “frozen” monthly and can be used for both point-in-time and longitudinal analyses.
- There are opportunities to streamline and improve data quality over time.
- Example metrics include:
 - Median daily, monthly, and annual tuition rates by program type, age group, and region

Key Questions for Future Inquiry

Tuition Data

- How are private tuition rates for early education and care changing over time, and how is that affecting family affordability by household characteristics (e.g. income level and geography)?
- What is the relationship between changes in CCFA rates and private tuition rates?
- What is the relationship between educator wages and private tuition rates? How does the relationship differ based on program characteristics?
- How do CCFA reimbursement rates, private tuition, and the cost of care differ? What might these differences suggest about family access and the financial stability of providers? What future policy interventions or investments may have the greatest impact?
- How do provider enrollment levels interact with CCFA reimbursement rates, private tuition, and the estimated cost of care? What does their relationship to each other reveal about local market conditions?

Discussion

Tuition Data

- How might your organization use these data? Are there specific analyses and/or disaggregation that would be helpful?
- How can EEC leverage tuition data to support the field and broader understanding of the market?
- As EEC further explores the tuition data, and potentially other public-facing tuition metrics, what are important considerations the agency should keep in mind from where you sit?

What's Next?

Tuition Data

- Better understand how school-age programs report tuition rates; add school-age rates to the KPI dashboard.
- Assess opportunities for research partnerships to support answering key questions of interest.
- Conduct further analyses to:
 - Better understand the current market and how tuition rates vary by different program characteristics.
 - Examine tuition trends over time and identify shifts in access and affordability.
 - Assess existing policies to inform potential investments related to program access, affordability, and financial stability.

Upcoming Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

KPI Dashboard

EEC is partnering with Child Trends and Lynch Research Associates to conduct a series of focus groups to gather additional feedback on EEC's KPI dashboard and make some refinements in response to this feedback:

- **Audience:** Focus on external dashboard users such as program leaders and staff, researchers, philanthropic organizations, and other key stakeholders, including members of the Data Advisory Commission.
- **Content:** Questions will be designed to help EEC assess the usability, interpretation, and decision-making value of the KPI dashboard.
- **Timeline:** Fall 2026

What's Next?

KPI Dashboard

In Fiscal Year 2027, EEC plans to:

- Begin to make graphs filterable by city/town, with attention to data privacy considerations
- Add C3 data on enrollment
- Add CCFA caseload data filters, for more nuanced analyses
- Create an additional tool that overlays population and supply data

For Discussion:

- What additional data or functionality would you like to see EEC incorporate into the KPI dashboard?



Recommendation 6: Develop additional public-facing data briefs, tools, and resources and continue to share research findings through accessible reports and presentations

Updates

- New Research/Data Briefs
 - EEC Capital Investments
 - Updated C3 Data (2025)
- Upcoming Research/Data Briefs
 - Education to Career (E2C) Data Story on the Early Education Workforce
 - Program Quality Practices Survey Findings
 - Updated CCFA Data (2026)



FY26 Progress and Next Steps: Improving Data Quality



Recommendation 7: Continue to focus on developing new technology systems that are user-centered, accessible, and improve data quality.

New Portal Launch

MyChildCareMA

EEC launched the new MyChildCareMA portal in May 2026!

MyChildCareMA is a new digital portal and case management system, which has fully replaced the current KinderWait system in phase 1. MyChildCareMA is part of the **MyMassGov** state services platform, with two separate interfaces, accessed from an EEC mass.gov webpage.

For Families

- Apply for CCFA, and join the waitlist
- Upload waitlist application documents
- See waitlist application status
- Receive email notification when action is needed
- Read and respond to notices from a Family Access Administrator (FAA)

For Administrators (FAAs)

- Review & process waitlist applications
- Determine likely CCFA eligibility
- Provide families with status updates, record touchpoints, and send communications
- Manage current waitlist, including issuing Income Eligible funding offers

Early Implementation Data (as of mid-July 2026)

MyChildCareMA

22,734 households

successfully migrated from legacy
KinderWait system to the new
Family Portal

**4,987 new household
applications**

successfully submitted via the new
Family Portal

1,080 benefit offers

extended in the new system in the
first 2 months since
implementation

Impact on Waitlist Data Quality

MyChildCareMA

The new family portal has already improved waitlist data quality, including:

- Stronger and more current family data, because FAAs and families have more ability to view, edit, and update data in the portal.
- More accurate information on the number of eligible families on the waitlist, because of the portal's initial eligibility check before families can enter the waitlist.
- Data are easier to aggregate and analyze, and there's less need to link data across systems, because the portal moves away from fillable PDFs and open text fields

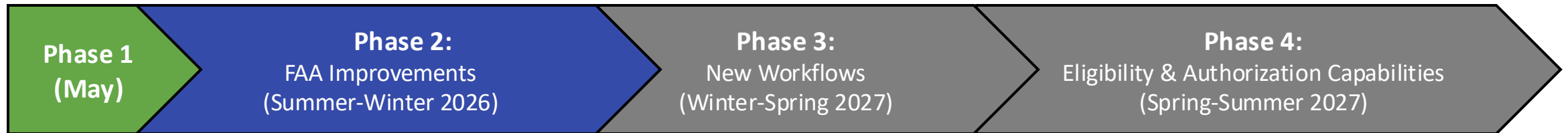
EEC is actively working to address some data quality concerns.

- Some applications may represent duplicate or existing family records. The team is reviewing duplication reasons to determine the best course of action moving forward.

What's Next?

MyChildCareMA

Phases 2-4 include additional improvements and enhanced functionality and workflows that benefit EEC, administrators, and families.



User Goals:

1. **Mass211** can efficiently manage the waitlist and support families with applying for and getting onto the waitlist. (e.g. improve how FAAs can see specific household information)
2. **Contract providers and CCR&Rs** can meaningfully and equitably match families to available funding with less time spent in the portal. (e.g. refine user experience for Family Access Administrators, including better search and filtering options)
3. **EEC** has more insight and control over how benefits are administered and families get a more consistent experience. (e.g. add more contextual content to support families when they are filling out an application)

Additional work: Analyze and clean up data being entered into the portal, create data dashboards to support operations and oversight, support families referred via DTA or DCF in managing their cases within the portal



Wrap Up and Logistics

Wrapping Up

Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2026 Commission meeting

Upcoming FY27 Data Advisory Commission Meetings

- October 27, 2026 at 1 pm
- January 26, 2027 at 1 pm
- April 27, 2027 at 1 pm



Appendix



FY26 Progress and Next Steps: Identifying Key Questions and Data Needed to Understand the Landscape and Inform Policy Decisions



Recommendation #2: Continue to Build and Deepen Research Capacity and External Research Partnerships

EEC Research Capacity and Partnerships

Family Access and Affordability	• CCFA Rates & Provider Participation: Federally supported multi-year research study to study the extent to which changes to CCFA rates and processes affect provider participation and family access. • CPPI & K-12 Outcomes: Contracted additional analytic support to utilize EEC and DESE data to start to understand the educational pathways and experiences of students who previously participated in CPPI. • Community Approaches to CPPI Implementation: Research-practice partnership to understand some of the implementation challenges and needs of local communities in expanding high-quality preschool opportunities. • Supply and Demand Modeling: Continuing to work with vendor to update EEC supply and demand model, which leverages data from the US Census, along with EEC's licensing, financial assistance, Head Start, and CPPI data and public preschool data to model supply and demand for early education and care across the Commonwealth.
Program Stability	• System Financing & Cost of Care: Research/data partnership focused on ongoing refinement of EEC's cost models and findings to inform a longer-term, system-level funding strategy (note: this work crosses EEC's strategic pillars).
Program Quality	• CCFA Contracts & Quality Expectations: Federally supported multi-year research study to better understand the impact of the new CCFA contract requirements on program quality. • Quality Measures & Program Practices: Gathering baseline understanding of program quality across CCFA contract providers through classroom observations and surveys.
Workforce Support	• Workforce Data Infrastructure: Research-practice partnership focused on building workforce data infrastructure and capacity and conducting targeted analyses to better understand the policies and investments shaping the state's early educator workforce.



Recommendation #3: Implement a multi-year plan to measure, track, and report on data metrics identified EEC's 2026-2030 Strategic Action Plan

EEC's 2026-2030 Strategic Action Plan

- EEC's [2026-2030 Strategic Action Plan](#) includes close to 40 priority metrics.
- EEC is working with an external research partner to design and visualize select metrics outlined in the plan by end of 2026.
- We are starting to track these metrics internally, with plans to add select Strategic Action Plan metrics to the KPI dashboard over time.
- As this work progresses, we plan to engage and gather feedback from the DAC on both some of the preliminary metric visualizations and use of data to inform decisions.