

EEC Advisory Council: Membership Description and Charge

Charge: as outlined in Chapter 215 of the Acts of 2008: “An Act Relative to Early Education and Care” the members of the EEC Advisory Council:

- May review and comment on EEC rules and regulations prior to promulgation by the Board.
- May make recommendations and comment to the Board for changes and/or improvements to EEC programs and services that it deems appropriate.
- Shall provide recommendations on the development of the 5-year master plan for early education and care required under section 4, and the adoption of the educationally sound kindergarten readiness assessment instrument (required under sections 3 and 13).
- Shall provide recommendations regarding the age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate standards, in the regulations, for the following developmental stages: infant and toddler; pre-school; early elementary; and older school age children.
- May make recommendations on the programmatic, financing, and phase-in options for the development and universal implementation of the Massachusetts universal pre-kindergarten program.
- May make recommendations regarding the assessment and reporting on the current and potential capacity of the existing early education and care system to: enhance the quality of early education and care programs; provide multiple points of entry and outreach for families including those in hard to reach populations; deliver comprehensive services including mental health consultation and intervention services to decrease expulsion rates; foster collaboration and coordinate resources among providers of early education programs and linkages with human services agencies, the department of elementary and secondary education and local school districts; undertake school readiness assessments and program evaluations; maximize resources for workforce and professional development for early education and care professionals; and reestablish trial court child care programs.

Membership: as outlined in Chapter 215 of the Acts of 2008: “An Act Relative to Early Education and Care” the members of the EEC Advisory Council:

- Representatives of 29 named entities, individuals who represent a reasonable geographic balance and reflect the diversity of the commonwealth in race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.
- 8 Legislative appointments, 3 each by Speaker of the House and Senate president 1 each by the minority leader of the House and the Senate.
- Additional members may be recommended by the Commissioner and appointed by the Board.
- All appointees shall have a special expertise or interest in high quality early childhood education and care and shall represent a mix of representatives of the early childhood community, the civic, labor, and business communities, academics, parents, teachers, social service providers, and health care providers.

The Advisory Team created the following, jointly agreed upon, job description which details the Advisory Team and Agency roles in supporting one another:

To support EEC, the Advisory Team will:

- Provide expertise and advice.
- Recommend priorities.
- Offer creative suggestions for viable solutions, alternatives, and options.
- Actively present their views, while empathizing with and carefully listening to the input of others.
- Identify and overcome obstacles.
- Understand the operating constraints of EEC.
- Lead the field in believing that we gain more by working together.
- Continuously balance the interests of individual organizations with the overarching interest in achieving the common vision.
- Build a sense of team and collegiality amongst members.
- Actively support EEC recommendations that are made on the basis of all of the above, whenever possible, to the greatest extent possible.

To support the Advisory Team, EEC will:

- Recognize the considerable contributions and experience that the Advisory Council members provide.
- Organize opportunities for the Advisory Team to share their ideas, views, research, and expertise on a regular basis with EEC staff and each other.
- Form standing committees and subcommittees as needed to explore specific issues in more depth. These groups may include additional stakeholders who could provide meaningful contributions to the work, at the invitation of the Advisory Team members and the Commissioner.
- Provide the Advisory Team with ample time and facilitated opportunities to contribute to the initiation and development of major strategies, regulations, and policies (to the greatest extent practicable within the bounds of legislative requirements, procurement and conflict of interest laws).
- Share the Advisory Team's contributions with the Board of Early Education and Care.