2026

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

ECAC Bylaws

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Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council • Bylaws

Article I – Name

Nevada's state advisory council on early childhood education and care shall be the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, hereafter referred to as the Council.

Article II – Creation & Purpose

Section 1. Creation

In compliance with section 642B of the Head Start Act, Governor Jim Gibbons created the Council by executive order in September 2009. The Council was continued by an executive order signed by Governor Brian Sandoval in July 2011. Effective May 24, 2013, Assembly Bill AB 79 established the Council in Chapter 432A of the Nevada Revised Statues (NRS). In 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) 194 expanded the Council membership and established the requirement of an annual report to the Legislature and Governor. In 2023, AB 463 amended NRS 432A.076 by revising Council membership to reflect the transfer of child care responsibilities to the Division of Supportive Services and by adding tribal representation.

Section 2. Purpose

The Council shall work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood education programs in Nevada.

Article III – Roles & Responsibilities

Section 1. NRS 432A.076 and the Head Start Act of 2007

NRS 432A.076 includes State Advisory Council responsibilities as outlined in the Head Start Act of 2007. NRS 432A.076 establishes in Nevada Statute that the Council shall:

A. Conduct periodic statewide assessments of needs relating to the quality and availability of programs and services for children who are in early childhood education programs.
B. Identify opportunities for and barriers to coordination and collaboration among early childhood education programs funded as a whole or in part by the Federal Government, the State, or a local government.
C. Develop recommendations for:
    1. Increasing the participation of children in early childhood education programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, the State, or a local government, including, without limitation, providing information on such programs to underrepresented and special populations.
    2. The establishment or improvement of core elements of the early childhood system in this State, including, without limitation, a statewide unified system for collecting data relating to early childhood education programs.
    3. A statewide professional development system for teachers engaged in early childhood education; and
    4. The establishment of statewide standards for early childhood education programs in this State.

D. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher education in this State in developing teachers in the field of early childhood education.
E. Establish, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, guidelines for evaluating the school readiness of children. The guidelines must:
    1. Be based on national school readiness indicators.
    2. Address the following components of school readiness:
        a. Physical and developmental health.
        b. Social and emotional development.
        c. Approaches to learning.
        d. Language and early literacy development; and
        e. Cognition and general knowledge.
F. Develop recommendations for increasing parental involvement and family engagement in early childhood education programs.
G. On or before December 1 of each year, the Council shall submit a report to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Health Care and the Legislative Committee on Education, if the report is received during an odd-numbered year, or to the next session of the Legislature, if the report is received during an even-numbered year. The report must include, without limitation, a summary of the activities of the Council and any recommendations for improvements to the early childhood system in this State.
H. Perform such other duties relating to early childhood education programs as designated by the Governor.

Section 2. Childcare and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

A. The 2014 reauthorization of CCDBG requires that the Council provide guidance in the development of Nevada's CCDF State Plan in the following areas:
    1. Training and Professional Development,
    2. Early Learning and Development Guidelines, and
    3. Subsidy Payment Rates to Providers.
B. Additionally, CCDBG requires the state to coordinate activities and collaborate with the Council on the Statewide Childcare Disaster Plan.

Article IV – Membership & Terms

Section 1. Membership

As established in NRS 432A.076 and the Head Start Act of 2007, the Council membership shall include:

ECAC SEATS	NRS REQUIRED SEAT AND DESCRIPTION	HEAD START REQUIRED SEAT
A	a) One member who is a representative of the Division whose duties include responsibility for child care	State Agency Responsible for Childcare
B	b) One member who is a representative of the Division whose duties include implementing regulations governing the licensure of child care facilities	
C	c) One member who is a representative of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Human Services whose duties include responsibility for maternal, child and adolescent health	
D	d) One member who is a representative of the Program for Child Care and Development, as defined in NRS 422A.055	State Agency Responsible for Childcare
E	e) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education	State Education Agency Department of Education
F	f) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education whose duties include responsibilities for programs under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., or a representative of the Department of Human Services whose duties include responsibilities for programs under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.	619 Coordinator* Part C Coordinator*
G	g) One member who is a representative of the boards of trustees of the school districts in this State	
H	h) One member who is a representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education	Institute of Higher Education
I	i) One member who is a representative of local providers of early childhood education and developmental services	Local Provider of ECE and Development Services
J	j) One member who is a representative of a public school, as defined in NRS 385.007, who works with pupils in kindergarten through grade 3	Local Educational Agency
K	k) One member who is a representative of Head Start agencies in this State, including, without limitation, migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs	Head Start Grantee
L	l) One member who is appointed or designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(a)(3)(A), (Head Start State Collaboration)	Head Start State Collaboration (42 U.S.C. 9837b(a)(3)(A)
M	m) One member who is a representative of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Human Services	
N	n) One member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in Southern Nevada that provides early childhood programs	
O	o) One member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in Northern Nevada that provides early childhood programs	
P	p) One member who is a representative of the pediatric mental, physical or behavioral health care industry	State Health, Mental Health
Q	q) One member who is a representative of a tribal organization, with consideration given to an enrolled member of a Nevada Indian tribe	
R	r) At least one member who is a parent or guardian of a child less than 8 years of age and who has participated in one or more federal or state early childhood programs, including, without limitation: 1. The Program for Child Care and Development administered by the Division pursuant to chapter 422A of NRS; or 2 Head Start or Early Head Start; or 3. Nevada Home Visiting Program in the Department of Human Services 4. Nevada Ready! State pre-K program in the Department of Education; or 5. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children in the United States Department of Agriculture	
S	s) Such other members as the Governor determines are appropriate.	

Section 2. Appointment

Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the Governor's authority to make a direct appointment to the Council.

Section 3. Subcommittees

A. The Council shall create standing subcommittees deemed necessary to improve the functioning of a comprehensive early childhood system in five general areas:
    1. Executive Leadership: Define and coordinate early childhood system leadership structures across agencies including equitable engagement of families.
    2. ECAC can establish additional subcommittees as deemed necessary by the ECAC to fulfill objectives, strategies, and actions of the strategic plan.
B. Each voting member of the Council shall serve on at least one standing subcommittee, based on the Council member's area of expertise.
C. Each standing subcommittee shall have at least one Co-chair who is a voting member of the Council. The chair has an option to select a Co-Chair from the committee, regardless of Council membership.
D. The Chair of the ECAC shall appoint the standing subcommittee Chair or Co-Chairs from the ECAC membership.
E. Each standing subcommittee may appoint additional non-voting members to their subcommittee, as needed based on area of expertise and/or specific projects.
F. Ad Hoc Committees may be created by the Council, as necessary.

Section 4. Officers

A. The officers of the Council shall be the Council Chair and Council Vice Chair. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Council.
    1. Officers of the Council Shall.
        a. Develop the agenda, with input from the Council members.
        b. Conduct the meetings.
        c. Oversee public hearings.
        d. Represent or designate others to represent the Council in meetings with the Governor, public officials, or other community meetings and/or events.
        e. Convene special meetings, as necessary.
        f. Appoint chairpersons for any subcommittees, Task Forces, Work groups or other Ad Hoc Committees that may be formed by the Council.
        g. Prepare or designate others to complete reports as requested by the Governor, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), or Superintendent of Public Instruction.
    2. The Council Vice Chair serves in the absence of the Chair.
B. Council members may nominate themselves or others for either Chair or Vice Chair.
C. Notification of officer election shall be posted as a business item on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting.
D. Election of each position is determined by a simple majority vote.
E. Terms of officers may be up to three years and officers may serve more than one term upon election of the Council.

Section 5. Terms

A. Members may serve up to three-year terms upon the Governor's appointment. Appointed members can serve for more than one term, and it is the member's responsibility to reapply for appointment.

Section 6. Vacancies

A. Vacancies among the Council shall be filled according to the appointment section of these bylaws. The initial term shall be for the remaining length of the vacated term.

Section 7. Resignation

A. A member who resigns from the Council must provide written notification to the Chair of the Council, the head of the agency or organization he or she was representing and the Governor's Office Boards and Commissions. The agency/organization will suggest a replacement candidate for consideration for the Chair who will then forward it to the Governor for consideration. For vacant membership seats that do not have organization affiliation, the recommendation to fill these seats will come from the full ECAC.

Section 8. Removal

A member may be presented to the Governor for consideration of removal for three absences during any consecutive 12-month period. If a member is not responsive after three consecutive attempts over a four-month period, it will be deemed that the member has resigned from their seat. After the third absence within this period, the chair shall forward to the Governor for consideration:

1. The name of the member to be considered for removal.
2. A statement describing the individual's history of attendance during the preceding 12-month period.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1. Procedures

All proceedings and actions shall be conducted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (N.R.S. 241.010 through 241.040, inclusively).

Section 2. Quorum

A simple majority of appointed Council members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3. Regular Meetings

The regular meetings of the Council shall be scheduled at least 4 times per year.

Section 4. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chair. A request for special meeting can also be made by other Council members through a written request submitted to the Chair for approval.

Section 5. Notice of Open Meetings

All regular and special meetings of the Council shall follow Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

Section 6. Voting

All actions require a simple majority vote of a quorum. Members participating in a meeting of the Council by means of a conference call, video conference, or other such means that allow each participant to hear and be heard by each participant at the same time shall be deemed to be present at such meeting. Voting on all matters shall be by voice vote and shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting. Each Council member shall have one vote.

The Council Chair will have a vote on any measure before the Council. The Chair may not make or second motions.

Section 7. Record Keeping

The conduct of all meetings and public access thereto, and the maintaining of all records of the Council shall be governed by Nevada's Open Meeting law.

Article VI – Fiscal Support

The Council may accept gifts, grants and donations from any source for the support of the Council in carrying out the provisions of this section NRS 432A.076. Any fiscal administration shall be overseen by the designated entity or entities.

Article VII – Conflict of Interest

Each Committee member is responsible for declaring when a conflict of interest exists, including any matter that would provide direct personal financial benefit for that member. When a conflict of interest exists, the conflicted member will refrain from the voting process. If a conflict of interest is known to exist but is not declared by an individual, one or more members of any group governed by these bylaws may ask that individual to refrain from the voting process.

Article VIII – Statement of Non-Discrimination

ECAC is an equal opportunity / affirmative action entity. Qualified persons are considered for membership without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, color, national origin, age, genetic information, or disability, as outlined in the state affirmative action plan.

Article IX – Revision of Bylaws

A. These bylaws will be reviewed and updated at least every two years or sooner as deemed necessary by the Council to ensure guidance and alignment with requirements and are practical and realistic to implement. Proposed amendments will be distributed to the Council members in writing at least one week prior to a regularly scheduled or special meeting. These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by a majority of the Council members at any regularly scheduled or special meetings in compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law.
B. These bylaws were originally approved and adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council on December 1, 2015.
    1. Revised and adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council on August 18, 2016.
    2. Revised and adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council on October 13, 2016.

3. *Revised and adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council on January 19, 2022.*
4. Revised and adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting on March 10, 2024
5. Revised 6/23/2026 adopted (add approval date here)