Nevada ECAC 2027 Policy Priorities Survey – Response Summary

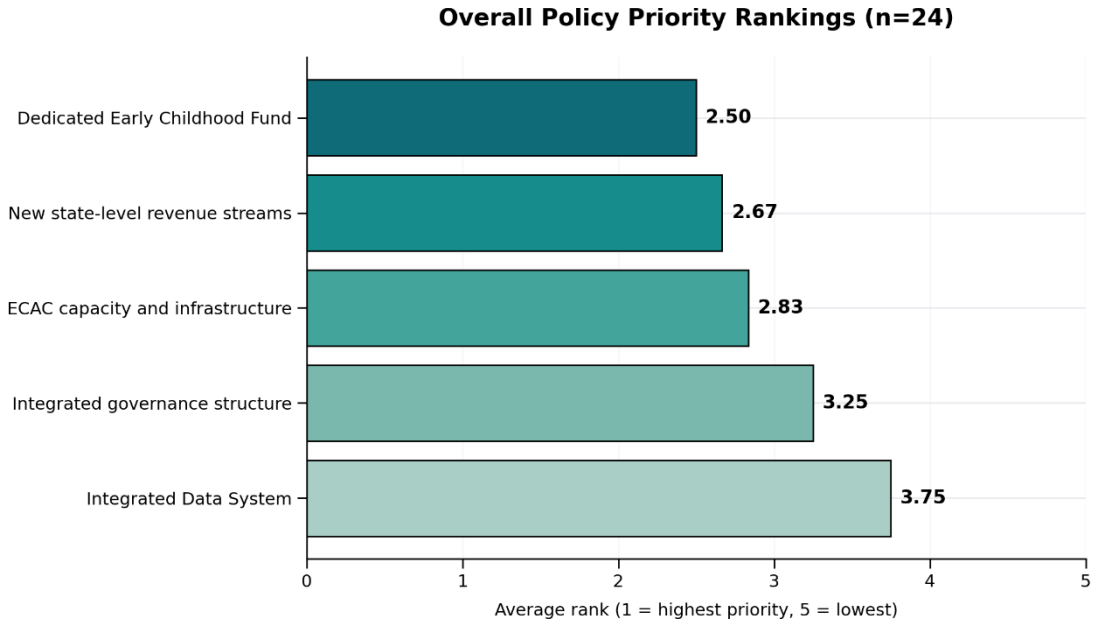
The analysis includes all 24 responses in ECAC Policy Priorities Survey for the 2026 Annual Report and 2027 Legislative Session. Rankings were consolidated across the survey's role-specific question blocks, with 1 representing the highest priority and 5 the lowest. Lower average scores therefore indicate stronger overall support.

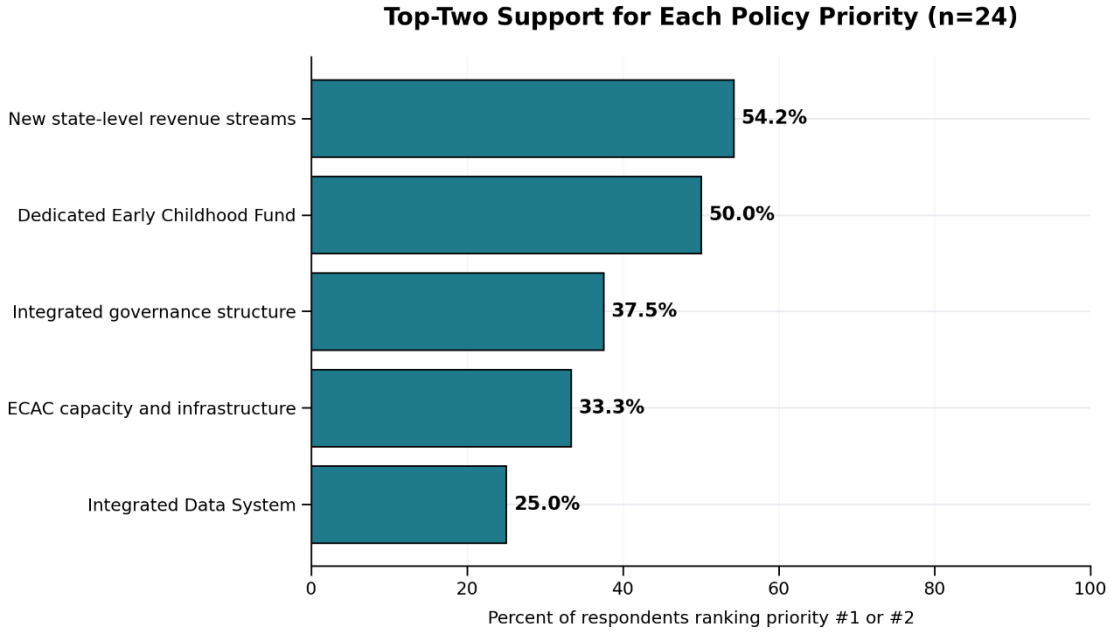
Respondent Profile

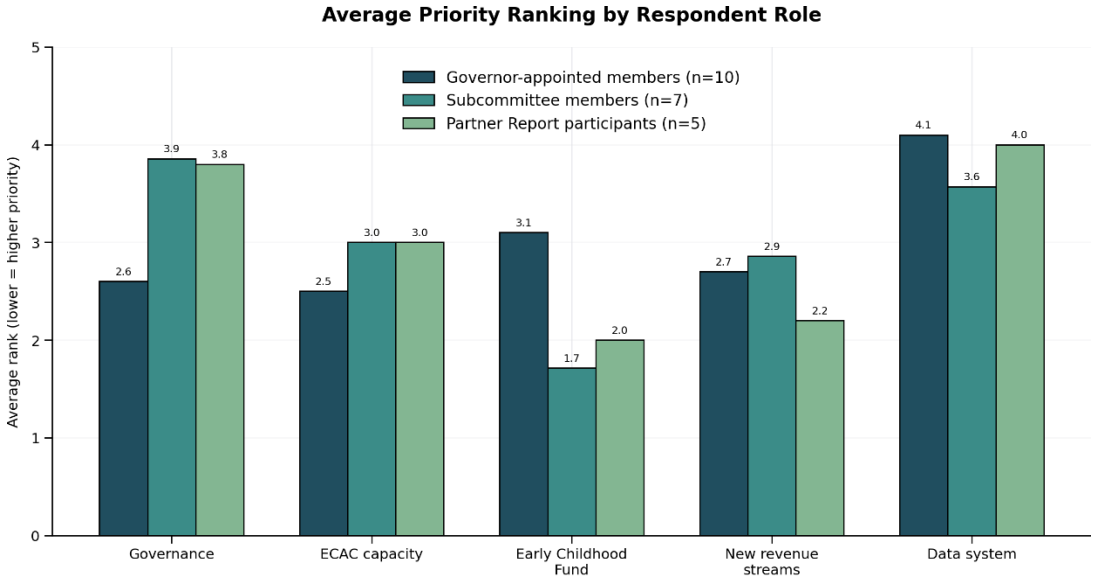
- Governor-appointed ECAC members: 10 respondents, 41.7%
- ECAC Subcommittee Members: 7 respondents, 29.2%
- ECAC Partner Report participants: 5 respondents, 20.8%
- Parent/Guardian/Caregiver: 1 respondent, 4.2%
- Early Childhood Educator: 1 respondent, 4.2%

Overall Ranked Policy Priorities

Rank	Policy priority	Average rank	Ranked in top two	Ranked first
1	Establish an Early Childhood Fund for dedicated resources to increase access to high-quality early childhood programs	2.50	12 of 24, 50.0%	6
2	Establish new state-level revenue streams to sustain, scale, and develop high-quality early childhood programs	2.67	13 of 24, 54.2%	6
3	Strengthen the organizational capacity and infrastructure of the Nevada ECAC with dedicated state funding	2.83	8 of 24, 33.3%	3
4	Establish an integrated early childhood governance structure	3.25	9 of 24, 37.5%	8
5	Develop a statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data System	3.75	6 of 24, 25.0%	1


Overall Policy Priority Rankings (n=24)
Dedicated Early Childhood Fund
New state-level revenue streams
ECAC capacity and infrastructure
Integrated governance structure
Integrated Data System
2.50
2.67
2.83
3.25
3.75
0
1
2
3
4
5
Average rank (1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest)


Top-Two Support for Each Policy Priority (n=24)
New state-level revenue streams
Dedicated Early Childhood Fund
Integrated governance structure
ECAC capacity and infrastructure
Integrated Data System
54.2%
50.0%
37.5%
33.3%
25.0%
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percent of respondents ranking priority #1 or #2


Average Priority Ranking by Respondent Role
Governor-appointed members (n=10)
Subcommittee members (n=7)
Partner Report participants (n=5)
Average rank (lower = higher priority)
0
1
2
3
4
5
2.6
3.9
3.8
2.5
3.0
3.0
3.1
1.7
2.0
2.7
2.9
2.2
4.1
3.6
4.0
Governance
ECAC capacity
Early Childhood Fund
New revenue streams
Data system

Key findings

- **Funding emerged as the clearest shared priority.** The Early Childhood Fund and new state-level revenue streams placed first and second overall. Together, they reflect strong support for both a dedicated funding mechanism and sustainable revenue to maintain and expand early childhood programs.
- **New revenue streams had the broadest top-tier support.** Thirteen respondents, or 54.2%, placed this priority first or second, the highest top-two share of any option.
- **The Early Childhood Fund was the most consistently supported priority.** It had the best average rank and was placed last by only one respondent.
- **Governance produced the most polarized response.** It received the largest number of first-place rankings, eight, but it also received nine fifth-place rankings.
- **The Integrated Data System ranked lowest overall.** Ten respondents placed it fifth, while only one placed it first.

Analysis by Role

Governor-Appointed ECAC Members (n=10)

(Highest Priority=1; Lowest Priority=5)

1. ECAC organizational capacity and infrastructure: 2.50
2. Integrated governance structure: 2.60
3. New state-level revenue streams: 2.70
4. Early Childhood Fund: 3.10
5. Integrated Data System: 4.10

This group placed greater emphasis on institutional authority, governance, and ECAC capacity than the other groups. Half ranked governance first, although governance was still somewhat polarized within the group. Six of the ten members placed ECAC capacity in their top two.

The Integrated Data System received the least support from this group. Only one member ranked it in the top two, and half placed it fifth.

ECAC Subcommittee Members (n=7)

1. Early Childhood Fund: 1.71
2. New state-level revenue streams: 2.86
3. ECAC organizational capacity and infrastructure: 3.00
4. Integrated Data System: 3.57
5. Integrated governance structure: 3.86

Subcommittee members demonstrated especially strong and consistent support for the Early Childhood Fund. Six of seven placed it in their top two, including three who ranked it first. No subcommittee member ranked it below third.

Governance was comparatively less important to this group. Four of seven subcommittee members placed it fifth, although two placed it in their top two. This reinforces the broader finding that views on governance are divided rather than uniformly weak.

ECAC Partner Report Participants (n=5)

1. Early Childhood Fund: 2.00
2. New state-level revenue streams: 2.20
3. ECAC organizational capacity and infrastructure: 3.00
4. Integrated governance structure: 3.80
5. Integrated Data System: 4.00

Partner Report participants strongly favored direct funding and sustainable revenue. Four of five placed new revenue streams in their top two, and three of five placed the Early Childhood Fund in their top two.

Governance and the data system received lower overall rankings. However, one participant ranked governance first and another ranked the data system first, indicating that these priorities retain some strong individual support even where group averages are low.

Cross-Role Comparison

Three distinct patterns emerge:

1. Governor-appointed members prioritized the system's governing and organizational infrastructure.
2. Subcommittee members prioritized a dedicated Early Childhood Fund.
3. Partner participants prioritized both the Early Childhood Fund and sustainable revenue streams.

The strongest cross-role common ground is therefore **funding sustainability**. The Early Childhood Fund placed first among both subcommittee members and Partner Report participants, while new revenue streams ranked in the top three for every major respondent group.

Governance appears to be an important but less universally shared priority. It ranked second among governor-appointed members but last among subcommittee members and fourth among Partner Report participants.

Additional Policy Recommendations

Eleven respondents entered substantive responses in an additional-recommendations field.

- Establish & fiscally support a NV Department of Early Care & Education that reports to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- As we look at improving Early Childhood throughout Nevada, it is imperative that our special population such as special education are considered in all areas of the improvement. Federal and State regulations need to be considered and utilized to ensure that all preschool age children are provided the same access to programs. Collaboration needs to be inclusive of all early childhood partners.
- Revenue streams with funds dedicated to early childhood care. One pathway I'd consider for this group is enacting a capital gains tax, which the Children's Funding Project recommends as a

funding source. This would create fair revenue proportional to our population and provide sustainability to families and providers administering the care.
    - Washington State provides a smart roadmap for us to follow. They faced similar procedural hurdles around income tax,, which they conquered because the IRS defines capital gains are separate from income. The legislature enacted a capital gains tax and, in tandem, passed the "Fair Start Act", which made critical investments in our childcare workforce and our children through the tax. In theory, a capital gains tax only touches the top 5% of earners in the state, while providing tens of thousands of our families a fair shot at success.
- More emphasis on a 2-gen approach, to ensure that children are able to thrive.
- Invest in ECE personnel training via NSHE and PD systems.
- I would recommend continued focus on sustainable funding for early childhood education, including expanding access to high-quality Pre-K through a mixed-delivery model that leverages existing community-based providers. Additional priorities should include strengthening the early childhood workforce through improved compensation, professional development, and retention strategies; increasing access to affordable child care, including for infants and toddlers; and reducing regulatory and zoning barriers that make it difficult for providers to open, expand, or sustain programs. I would also encourage continued attention to coordination across state agencies and the development of a comprehensive early childhood system that better aligns funding, services, and accountability. These priorities would help Nevada build capacity, support working families, strengthen the workforce, and ensure more children have access to high-quality early learning experiences before entering kindergarten.
- Consider incorporating additional policy recommendations into the 2026 ECAC Annual Report and 2027 Legislative Session agenda that address gaps in workforce retention, and funding accountability. These recommendations should build on the ECAC Council's established priorities of childcare affordability, workforce compensation, and systems alignment while advancing the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan's goals.
- Establish permanent Language Access pathways for families to participate in the ECAC as they did with PDG B-5. This made a big difference for families and the workforce and has been a missing service since June. This could fit into the other priorities above but isn't specified.

Overall Conclusion

The survey indicates that the strongest foundation for a shared policy agenda is:

1. Create a dedicated Early Childhood Fund.
2. Establish sustainable state-level revenue streams.
3. Strengthen ECAC capacity and infrastructure.
4. Continue governance reform while acknowledging differences in stakeholder perspectives.
5. Position the Integrated Data System as a supporting, longer-term infrastructure priority.

The additional recommendations suggest that the funding priorities should be connected to clear outcomes: workforce compensation and retention, affordable access, mixed-delivery Pre-K, infant and toddler care, inclusion of children with disabilities, language access, provider sustainability, regulatory reform, and stronger accountability.