

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Historical Timeline DRAFT DOCUMENT

2009-2026 - Updated September 2026

Purpose. This document provides a chronological history of major Nevada ECAC statutory, strategic-planning, governance, membership, and systems-building milestones. It incorporates information from Nevada Revised Statutes, Nevada legislation, ECAC annual reports, strategic plans, and ECAC website archives.

Important statutory notes. The current NRS history for NRS 432A.076 shows the section was added in 2013 and amended in 2019 and 2023. The 2024-2026 milestones below primarily reflect Council operations, strategic planning, governance, and implementation rather than additional amendments to NRS 432A.076.

Review Highlights: Yellow highlighting identifies the sections added or strengthened in response to recent Executive Leadership feedback.

Timeline at a Glance

Year	Primary Milestone
2009	Council established by Executive Order
2011	ECAC continued by Executive Order
2013	ECAC established in Nevada Revised Statutes
2014	Silver State Strong strategic plan and kindergarten readiness work
2015	Early statutory reporting and governance development
2016	Statewide school readiness definition documented
2017	Strategic planning transition
2018	2018-2021 Strategic Plan adopted
2019	AB 194 expands membership and establishes annual reporting
2020	Action plans, needs assessments, and fiscal/system planning
2021	Annual reporting and preparation for the next strategic plan
2022	2022-2024 Strategic Plan approved and governance updated
2023	Major statutory expansion through AB 114 and AB 463
2024	Membership expansion, administrative capacity, data and systems accomplishments
2025	Strategic planning, family engagement, membership and policy infrastructure strengthened
2026	2026-2030 Strategic Plan, subcommittee realignment and bylaws crosswalk

Detailed Historical Timeline

2009 - Council established by Executive Order

- Nevada created the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) by Governor's Executive Order on September 11, 2009 to serve as the State Advisory Council on early childhood education and care required under federal Head Start law.
- The Council's early responsibilities included strengthening state-level coordination among early care and education programs and developing guidance related to children's school readiness.
- Local early childhood councils, including tribal participation, were also part of Nevada's early system-building approach.

Local ECAC alignment clarification. Local ECACs are regional/community independent counsels that coordinate with and contribute information to the Nevada ECAC by request, or through partner reporting. They are not formal subcommittees of the State ECAC. *Note we can change this wording.*

Source: [Nevada Legislature – 2013 Statutes, Chapter 114 \(AB 79\)](#)

2011 - ECAC continued by Executive Order

- A July 14, 2011 Executive Order continued the Council. The 2013 Legislature later noted that this executive-order Council was scheduled to expire July 31, 2013 unless replaced in statute.

Source: [Nevada Legislature – 2013 Statutes, Chapter 114 \(AB 79\)](#)

2013 - ECAC established in Nevada Revised Statutes

- Assembly Bill 79 (Chapter 114) established the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council in statute and placed its core authority in NRS 432A.076.
- The statute required Governor-appointed membership and established duties including statewide coordination, needs assessments, identifying barriers to collaboration, recommendations for core system elements and professional development, school-readiness guidelines, and increased family engagement.
- AB 79 also required a one-time report on the Council's work to be prepared by February 1, 2015.

Source: [Nevada Legislature – 2013 Statutes, Chapter 114 \(AB 79\)](#) and current [NRS 432A.076](#)

2014 - Silver State Strong strategic plan and kindergarten readiness work

- The Council implemented the Silver State Strong: Nevada Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Strategic Plan for 2014-2017.
- The ECAC archive also documents the Year 1 evaluation of Nevada's Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA), reflecting the Council's ongoing school-readiness and early learning work.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#)

2015 - Early statutory reporting and governance development

- The statutory transition created by AB 79 required the Council to report on its work by February 1, 2015.
- ECAC records from this period also show formal governance development, including Bylaws Subcommittee work.

Source: [Nevada Legislature – 2013 Statutes, Chapter 114 \(AB 79\)](#); [Nevada ECAC Subcommittee Archives](#)

2016 - Statewide school readiness definition documented

- The Nevada ECAC archive identifies an approved School Readiness Definition dated August 18, 2016.
- Subcommittee records from 2016 show continued work across professional development, early learning, family and community engagement, and systems coordination.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#) and [Subcommittee Archives](#)

2017 - Strategic planning transition

- An Ad Hoc Chair Subcommittee met in January 2017 as ECAC prepared for the next strategic planning cycle and transition beyond the 2014-2017 plan.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#)

2018 - 2018-2021 Strategic Plan adopted

- The Council adopted a new Nevada ECAC Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, continuing a systems approach spanning early learning, health, family and community engagement, and cross-sector coordination.
- The plan emphasized that Nevada's children should be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life and that the system should support children and families in achieving their full potential.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive – 2018–2021 Strategic Plan](#)

2019 - AB 194 expands membership and establishes annual reporting

- Assembly Bill 194 (Chapter 10) amended NRS 432A.076 to add a representative of the pediatric mental, physical, or behavioral health care industry to the Council.
- AB 194 also established the requirement for ECAC to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature summarizing Council activities and recommendations for improvements to Nevada's early childhood system.
- Nevada's Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) work also supported statewide early childhood needs assessment and system-planning efforts during this period.

Source: [Nevada Legislature – 2019 AB 194](#); [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#)

2020 - Action plans, needs assessments, and fiscal/system planning

- The ECAC archive documents 2020 action plans for Child & Family Health, Family & Community, and Early Learning.
- The archive also includes early childhood needs assessments and a 2020 Early Childhood Fiscal Feasibility Study, strengthening the evidence base for system coordination, access, and financing.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#)

2021 - Annual reporting and preparation for the next strategic plan

- The Council continued annual statutory reporting and operated through its 2018-2021 strategic plan cycle.
- Council records show active planning for the next strategic plan, including discussion of timeline, facilitation, and funding for the 2022+ planning cycle.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#) and [General ECAC meeting archive](#)

2022 - 2022-2024 Strategic Plan approved and governance updated

- On January 19, 2022, the Nevada ECAC approved the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.
- The plan focused on a more coordinated, aligned, inclusive, and integrated early childhood service system and organized the Council's work around five system goals.
- The ECAC archive also documents updated Bylaws, a Northern Nevada Early Childhood Summit, and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems/SAGA resources during 2022.

Source: [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive – 2022–2024 Strategic Plan and bylaws](#)

2023 - Major statutory expansion through AB 114 and AB 463

- Assembly Bill 114 (Chapter 197) significantly broadened ECAC membership and scope. It added representation for maternal, child and adolescent health; the Program for Child Care and Development; a public school representative working with K-3 pupils; a tribal organization; and at least one parent or guardian of a child under age eight who participated in an early childhood program.
- AB 114 also defined “early childhood program” in NRS 432A.076 to include programs for children under age eight related to nutrition, health care, mental and behavioral health, protection, and play and learning.
- Assembly Bill 463 (Chapter 254) transferred child care licensing and related responsibilities to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and made corresponding changes to ECAC membership language in NRS 432A.076.
- The Council continued annual reporting to the Governor and Legislature and implementation of the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.

Source: [Nevada Legislature – 2023 AB 114](#); [2023 AB 463](#); [current NRS 432A.076](#); [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents](#)

2024 - Membership expansion, administrative capacity, data and systems accomplishments

- The 2024 Annual Report documented two federally funded ECAC administrative/systems positions supporting the Council for 2023-2025.
- Following AB 114, ECAC recruited five new members; the 2024 report listed 17 total members and four vacancies.
- Key accomplishments included Spanish interpretation for selected General ECAC meetings; development of an early childhood program list, key indicators, and data dictionary; approval of an Early Childhood System definition; updates to the Vulnerable and Underserved Population definition; a statewide network analysis; and support for Nevada's first Children's Fiscal Map.
- The formal 2022-2024 strategic plan period concluded, while related implementation work continued into 2025 as ECAC began development of its next strategic plan.

Source: [Nevada ECAC 2024 Annual Report and related materials](#)

2025 - Strategic planning, family engagement, membership and policy infrastructure strengthened

- The Council advanced a new strategic planning process and held a two-day Strategic Planning Retreat on October 29-30, 2025 with ECAC members, parents and family members, partners, professionals, and community members.
- The 2025 Annual Report documented input from approximately 1,700 survey respondents, including about 60% parents of young children, plus 28 key leader interviews.
- ECAC strengthened governance and operations through administrative support, new-member orientation, an annual planning process for policy priorities, Spanish interpretation, flexible meeting schedules, improved partner reporting, online applications, and enhanced family engagement.
- The 2025 progress highlights reported 21 General ECAC members with one vacancy and continued work on cross-sector system alignment, data tools, fiscal mapping, and policy priorities for 2026.
- ECAC updated bylaws in 2025 related to chair appointment/leadership language. A broader bylaws review followed in 2026.

Funding and grant context. During 2025, Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) funds were used for Local ECAC Supports administered by The Children's Cabinet in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education. The support was intended to strengthen regional early childhood systems and align Local ECAC goals with Nevada ECAC and PDG B-5 initiatives.

Source explanation: [Nevada ECAC Local ECAC Supports](#) provides the program purpose, funding context, alignment expectations, and application/reporting documentation.

- ECAC Drafted strategic-plan goals for 2026-2030 and the final plan approved in 2026.

Source: [Nevada ECAC 2025 Annual Report and progress materials](#); [General ECAC meeting archive](#)

2026 - 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, subcommittee realignment and bylaws crosswalk

- The Nevada ECAC finalized its [2026-2030 Strategic Plan](#) and aligned Council work to the new goals and objectives.
- On February 19, 2026, the Council approved six subcommittees for implementation: Executive Leadership; Communication and Engagement; Policy and Finance; Data; Family Leadership & Engagement; and Workforce Development.
- The prior Systems Alignment Subcommittee completed its work and was archived as the Council transitioned to the new structure.
- From April through June 2026, ECAC Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee conducted a comprehensive review of ECAC Bylaws. T
- The 2026 review and Bylaw update included an NRS/Head Start crosswalk, review of a bylaw tracker, a June 23 final crosswalk, and final 2026 bylaws changes. ([2026 Bylaws updated](#)) ([Bylaws Summary of changes](#))
- The Council also continued implementing annual policy priorities, partner reporting, strategic plan workplan updates, family engagement, and workforce development planning, restructure of subcommittees, and subcommittee policy and procedure.
- ECAC Updated its Website in 2026 through grant funding.

Source basis: [Nevada ECAC 2026–2030 Strategic Plan](#); [General ECAC meeting records](#); [Reports and Documents](#)

ECAC Funding and Grant Support

Funding and grant support has helped strengthen Nevada ECAC systems-building, planning, coordination, administrative capacity, and regional alignment. The milestones below distinguish documented support **connected** to ECAC work from broader early childhood funding that may align with ECAC priorities.

Year / Period	Funding or Grant	Connection to ECAC Work	Source / Documentation
2019-2020	Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)	Supported early childhood needs assessment and system-planning work connected to ECAC priorities	Nevada ECAC archive and PDG B-5 documents; 2019 PDG B-5 Needs Assessment.
2023-2026	Federal funding for ECAC administrative / systems capacity Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)	2024 - two federally funded ECAC administrative/systems positions supporting Council capacity during this period. ECAC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 ECAC Website Update (grant funding)	Nevada ECAC 2024 Annual Report.
2025	PDG B-5 Local ECAC Supports	Supported regional Local ECAC work administered by The Children's Cabinet in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education, with emphasis on strengthening regional systems and alignment with Nevada ECAC and PDG B-5 initiatives.	Nevada ECAC Local ECAC Supports; 2025 ECAC records.
2025-2026	PDG B-5 SMART funding opportunity / application work	ECAC records document planning and coordination around the federal PDG B-5 SMART opportunity related to early childhood technology, analytics, and data infrastructure. Nevada's November 2025 application was reported as unsuccessful; later 2026 records describe a new anticipated opportunity.	General ECAC July 2026 meeting record; Executive Leadership September 2026 minutes.

Related system-building initiatives. ECAC archives also include Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS/SAGA) and other federally connected early childhood initiatives. These are related to ECAC priorities, but this timeline does not identify them as direct ECAC funding unless a source specifically documents that connection.

Current Statutory Framework: NRS 432A.076

As of September 2026, NRS 432A.076 establishes ECAC as Nevada’s state advisory council on early childhood education and care. The statute requires Governor-appointed membership representing state agencies, education, higher education, service providers, Head Start, pediatric health, tribal organizations, parents/guardians, and other sectors. It also requires the Council to work on statewide coordination, needs assessment, system improvements, professional development, school readiness, family engagement, and annual reporting.

- Annual report: due on or before December 1 each year and must summarize ECAC activities and recommendations for improvements to Nevada’s early childhood system.
- Family voice: at least one statutory seat is for a parent or guardian of a child under age eight who has participated in a federal or state early childhood program, with preference for representation of Nevada’s diverse population when practicable.
- Early childhood program definition: programs for children under age eight related to nutrition, health care, mental and behavioral health, protection, and play and learning that stimulate physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development.

[Read current NRS 432A.076 – Nevada Legislature](#)

Local ECAC terminology. This timeline uses “Local ECAC” to describe regional/community early childhood advisory councils that align and coordinate with the Nevada ECAC. It does not classify Local ECACs as State ECAC subcommittees.

Sources and References

Primary public sources used to complete and verify this timeline:

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Historical Timeline

- [Nevada Revised Statutes – NRS 432A.076](#) — Current statutory authority, membership, duties, definitions, and annual reporting requirements.
- [2013 AB 79 – Chapter 114](#) — Statutory establishment of ECAC and legislative history documenting the 2009 and 2011 Executive Orders.
- [2019 AB 194](#) — Membership revision and establishment of the annual report requirement.
- [2023 AB 114 – Chapter 197](#) — Expanded membership and definition of early childhood program.
- [2023 AB 463 – Chapter 254](#) — Transfer of child care licensing responsibilities and corresponding ECAC membership revisions.
- [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents](#) — Current annual reports, governance documents, strategic planning materials, policy resources, and approved ECAC documents.
- [Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents Archive](#) — Historical strategic plans, annual reports, needs assessments, fiscal studies, action plans, school-readiness materials, and other archived records.
- [Nevada ECAC Subcommittee Archives](#) — Historical subcommittee materials, including the 2015 Bylaws Subcommittee and earlier systems, professional development, and family/community work.
- [Nevada ECAC General Meeting Archive](#) — Meeting records documenting statewide ECAC decisions, Local ECAC reports, bylaws materials, workplans, annual reports, and strategic planning.
- [Nevada ECAC Local ECAC Supports](#) — 2025 PDG B-5-funded Local ECAC support history, regional alignment expectations, and supporting documentation.
- [Nevada ECAC 2026–2030 Strategic Plan](#) — Current strategic goals, objectives, and the six-subcommittee structure approved in 2026.

Original source document reviewed: ECAC Historical Outline.docx (2 pages), which contained the initial timeline notes that were expanded and verified where supporting records were available.