

STRENGTHEN EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EEC BOARD BY INCREASED REPRESENTATION

Established in 2005, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) was created to represent, support, and administer services to the state's early childhood education field. As the work of EEC has evolved, many educators now suggest that the board's effectiveness would be strengthened by increasing the representation of service providers in the mixed-delivery systems.

Therefore, we recommend that three new seats be added to the EEC board. These seats would be designated for each one of the mixed-delivery systems: Center-based, Family Child Care, and School-Age/Afterschool. These additions would acknowledge and respect the diversity of voices, improve communication, and strengthen the quality of programming.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS!

Adding three seats representing each of the entities of the mixed-delivery system will:



01 - Acknowledge and respect the diversity of voices served by EEC by:

Representing the geographic, economic, racial, and cultural diversity of the children and families throughout the Commonwealth.

Leveraging Massachusetts' long-standing commitment to the mixed-delivery system and to the people who work with children and youth.



02 - Improve Communication by:

Increasing the capacity of EEC by institutionalizing a closer connection to the families and staff impacted by the policies and regulations that govern child care.

Securing buy-in from the early education field on important issues.



03 - Strengthen the Quality of Programming by:

Bringing educators' expertise and experiences to the creation and implementation of policies and regulations.

Providing on-the-ground information about the challenges and opportunities of each sector from the perspective of programs, staff, children, and families.[1]

LEADING THE WAY

Massachusetts has led the way in early education policy and system building and has been a model and pioneer for other states and federal policies. Currently, Massachusetts is one of the few states that has created a lead early care and education agency responsible for the governance of early childhood education. [2] Massachusetts can continue to provide innovative leadership by establishing a precedent of creating an early education board with mixed-delivery system representation.



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ENDNOTES

[1] Walsh, B., Smith, L., & Mercado, K. (2023). Integrated Efficient Early Care and Education Systems: Revisiting a State-by-State Analysis. Bipartisan Policy Center.

https://bipartisanpolicy.org/download/?file=/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BPC_State-Governance-Report-1.25.23.pdf

[2] Fischer, A., Rafa, A., Atchison, B., Regenstein, E., Fulton, M., Weyer, M., McCann, M., & Smillie, S. (2020, November 10). 50-State Comparison: Early Care and Education Governance. Education Commission of the States. <https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-early-care-and-education-governance>



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