

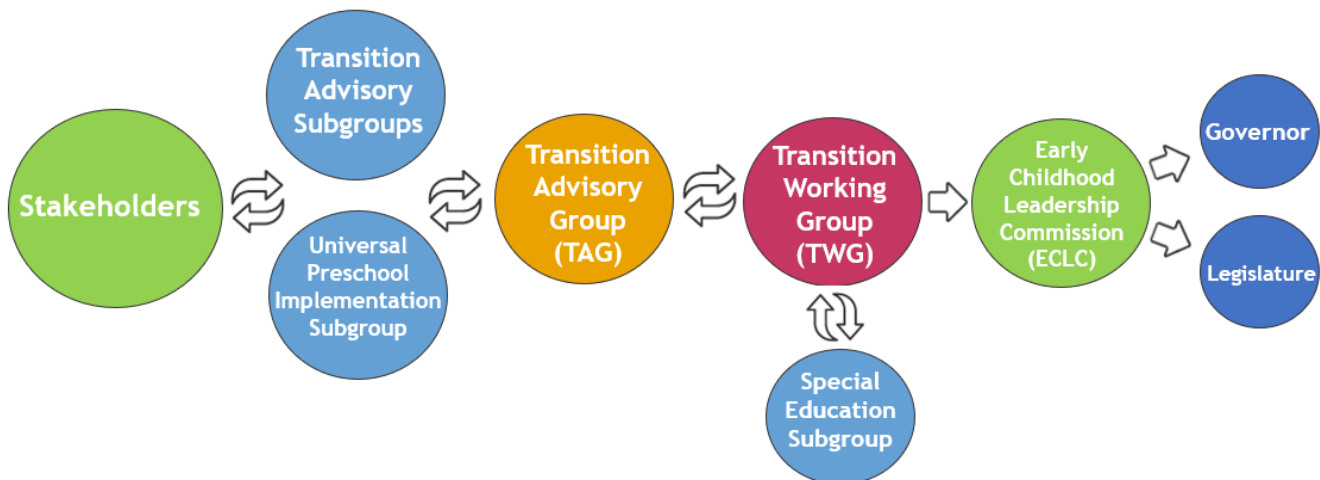
## Background

Over the past 30 years, Colorado has made significant advancements in supporting children and families. Now, Colorado is seizing an opportunity to build on this successful history by offering voluntary universal preschool in high-quality early learning settings for all children, beginning in fall 2023. To continue to elevate the importance of early childhood, Colorado will [create a new unified state Department of Early Childhood](#), effective July 1, 2022.

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is designated to approve a transition plan that will lead to the creation of a new single state agency that delivers on the vision of a comprehensive early childhood system for children. The ECLC is required to create a Transition Advisory Group (TAG), as well as content-specific subgroups, to learn from parents/families, members of the early childhood workforce, providers, school districts, human services leaders, Councils, and other stakeholders, and ultimately provide recommendations to inform (1) the development of a transition plan for the new state department and (2) the universal preschool program. All of the groups will include public and private voices to ensure the recommendations reflect the full spectrum of early childhood programs and services.

## Transition Planning Process

The ECLC is developing the Transition Advisory Group (TAG) and several content-specific subgroups to inform its work. The TAG will present recommendations to the Transition Working Group (TWG), composed of leaders from the Governor’s Office, state agencies, and ECLC, which will then report to the full ECLC. The ECLC will vote on final plans to be sent to the Governor and the Legislature.



The TAG will hold monthly public meetings beginning in July and continuing through December 2021. Subgroups focused on specific topics will meet more frequently to review feedback and provide recommendations to the TAG. All meetings are open to public participation, and meeting details will be posted to the ECLC website at [www.EarlyChildhoodColorado.org/transition](http://www.EarlyChildhoodColorado.org/transition).

## Expectations for Participation in the Transition Process

**Transition Advisory Group (TAG):** Specific membership representation is identified in [HB21-1304](#) and will reflect the perspectives and diversity of the state, with a strong focus on including parent, workforce, school district, human services, and provider voices, as well as those representing or serving under-resourced and under-represented communities. The ECLC will solicit and prioritize membership for certain groups based on the recommendations of statewide associations listed in the bill. The TAG will meet monthly for approximately 3-4 hours. **TAG members should commit to missing no more than one meeting.** In addition, members may be asked to co-lead TAG subgroups with other members of the TAG. Stipends may be available for TAG members for their participation.

**Transition Advisory Group Subgroups (TAG Subgroups):** The ECLC will also facilitate TAG Subgroups to focus on particular aspects of early childhood care and learning, including a subgroup focused on **Preschool Special Education** and a subgroup focused on **Universal Preschool Implementation**. TAG Subgroups are open to all stakeholders and will be led by TAG members. Subgroups will discuss content-specific issues and make recommendations throughout the process. The Subgroups will meet frequently, and participants are asked to join as many meetings as possible. Information on additional TAG Subgroups and the topics covered will be available soon on the ECLC's website at [www.EarlyChildhoodColorado.org/transition](http://www.EarlyChildhoodColorado.org/transition).

Parents, workforce, providers, school districts, human service professionals, and other stakeholders interested in participating in the TAG and the TAG Subgroups should complete the online interest form in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) no later than **June 21, 2021**. Those who indicate interest in the TAG but are not selected are encouraged to join the Subgroups. Language interpretation will be available upon request.

## Guiding Principles

The ECLC is committed to the following guiding principles in the development of the transition plan and universal preschool recommendations:



## Additional Engagement Opportunities

In addition to the TAG and TAG Subgroups, stakeholders will be able to provide input by viewing and commenting on drafts of the plans, participating in community listening sessions in late summer/fall, submitting ideas and suggestions through a feedback form on the ECLC website, and providing public comment at ECLC meetings.

## Contact

For more information, contact Early Childhood Leadership Commission Director Kristina Heyl at [kristina.hey@state.co.us](mailto:kristina.hey@state.co.us).