



## Department of Early Childhood Transition Planning and Universal Preschool Recommendations Overview

### Background

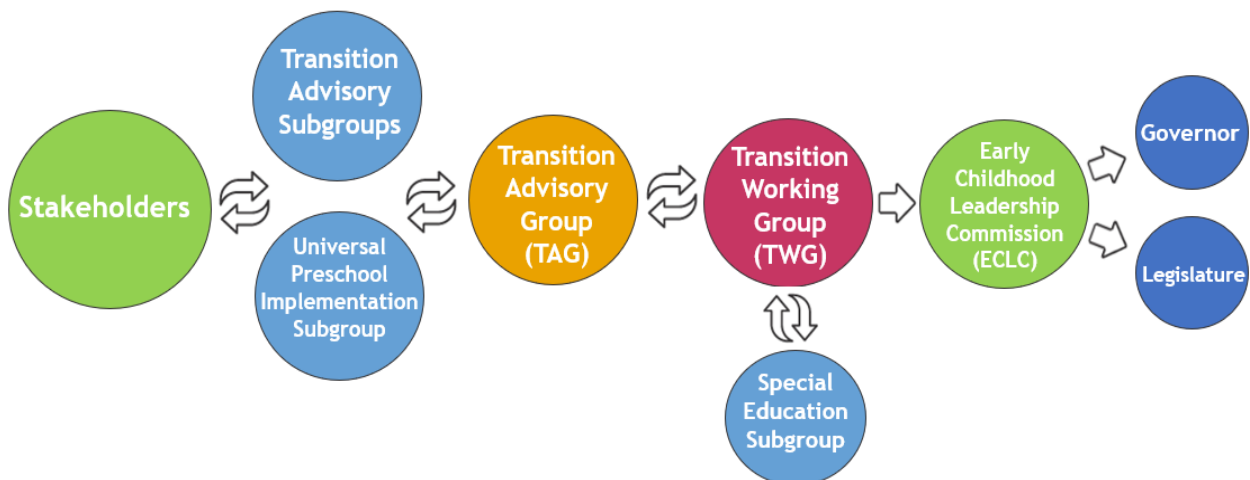
Over the past 30 years, Colorado has made significant advancements in supporting children and families. Now, Colorado is seizing an opportunity to build on this successful history by offering voluntary universal preschool in high-quality early learning settings for all children, beginning in fall 2023. To continue to elevate the importance of early childhood, [House Bill 21-1304](#) establishes a plan to 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 and families. The ECLC is required to convene 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, Early Childhood 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 and Participation

The ECLC created the [Transition Advisory Group](#) (TAG), with [specific membership](#) representation as identified in [HB21-1304](#) to reflect the perspectives and diversity of the state, with more than half of TAG membership representing voices of parents/families, workforce, school districts, human services, and providers, as well as those representing or serving under-resourced and under-represented communities. The TAG will hold regular public meetings through December 2021.

In coordination with the Transition Working Group (TWG), the ECLC also convened a [Special Education Subgroup](#) to develop recommendations for the administration of special education services within the new preschool programs. The ECLC convened three content-specific [subgroups](#) to inform the work of the TAG and TWG: [Transformative Governance, Operations, and Funding](#); [Innovative Data, Technology, Evaluation and Accountability](#); and [Universal Preschool Implementation](#).



The TAG will present recommendations to the Transition Working Group (TWG), composed of leaders from the Governor’s Office, several state agencies, and the 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.

All meetings are open to public participation, and participants are asked to join as many meetings as possible. Language interpretation will be available upon request. Stipends may be available for parents or members of the early childhood workforce who otherwise would not be compensated for their time; please contact Kristina Heyl at [kristina.hey@state.co.us](mailto:kristina.hey@state.co.us) for more information.

The ECLC is committed to centering discussions and decisions on the perspectives of families, parents, and the early childhood professionals who serve them.



## Additional Engagement Opportunities

The ECLC is committed to ensuring broad stakeholder engagement throughout the transition process. The following [opportunities](#) aim to ensure everyone who would like to participate is able:

- **Interactive User-Focused Listening Sessions**

The ECLC wants to hear directly from the families, workforce members, and program providers who are navigating the state’s early childhood systems to understand their perspectives and experiences. It will hold multiple, interactive listening sessions throughout the summer and fall.

- **Monthly Town Halls**

Starting in August 2021, ECLC will host an evening town hall each month to provide listeners an opportunity to hear about progress on the transition plan and universal preschool recommendations. Spanish language interpretation will be available at all of the monthly town halls. If you require translation in another language, please contact Kristina Heyl at [kristina.hey@state.co.us](mailto:kristina.hey@state.co.us).

- **Monthly Newsletter**

The ECLC publishes a monthly newsletter detailing progress on the transition plan and universal preschool program recommendations and highlighting the work ahead. [Sign up to receive these regular updates!](#)

- **Stakeholder Feedback Form**

All stakeholders are invited to complete the [Feedback Form](#) to provide recommendations, input, questions, or suggestions for the TAG and Subgroups.

- **Statewide Listening Tour**

The ECLC will hold a statewide listening tour this fall, where members of our team will go into communities, share the progress on the plan, and seek feedback.

## Contact

For more information, please contact Early Childhood Leadership Commission Director Kristina Heyl at [kristina.hey@state.co.us](mailto:kristina.hey@state.co.us) or visit the transition homepage at [www.EarlyChildhoodColorado.org/transition](http://www.EarlyChildhoodColorado.org/transition).