

**Delaware Early Childhood Council**  
**By-Laws and Operating Procedures**

**Article I**

Name of Organization

Delaware Early Childhood Council

Background

The Delaware Early Childhood Council (ECC) was codified in 2007 in Title 14, Chapter 30 of the Delaware Code. It was amended June 2010 in HR 470 (Section 1 Amendment 1703(n) Title 14.

**Article II**

Mission

Promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families.

Vision

- **Ready children:** children who are physically and emotionally healthy, have access to high quality early learning experiences, and enter school prepared to succeed
- **Ready families:** families with the knowledge and resources needed to successfully support their children's development and learning
- **Ready early care and education programs:** programs that effectively support the growth, development, and learning of all children and are staffed by teachers who are well prepared, well compensated, and well supported
- **Ready communities:** communities that embrace their responsibilities for enhancing the quality of life of young children and their families through collaborations across all sectors
- **Ready schools:** schools that build upon and further enrich the learning foundations

**Article III****Membership and Terms**

The ECC shall be appointed for staggered terms up to three years by the Governor upon recommendation by the Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) and shall:

- (1) represent the racial, economic and geographic diversity of the State;
- (2) serve for staggered, renewable terms of three (3) years, except in the case of public employees continuing in the same designated position; and
- (3) consist of the following members:
  - (1) Two center-based early care and education providers;
  - (2) One family-home-based early care and education provider;
  - (3) One parent whose child participates in early childhood services;
  - (4) One Delaware Head Start/Early Childhood Assistance Program Association representative;
  - (5) One representative of a State-wide early care and education resource and referral agency;
  - (6) Two representatives from advocacy organizations focused on children's health and well-being;
  - (7) One representative of the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children;
  - (8) One public school district superintendent;
  - (9) One Higher education representative who also serves on the P-20 Council;
  - (10) One business community representative;
  - (11) Two community members;
  - (12) One representative of the General Assembly;
  - (13) The State Director of Head Start Collaboration;
  - (14) A representative of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, representing children's health, child care subsidy, and Part C of IDEA;
  - (15) A representative of the Delaware Department of Services to Children, Youth and Their Families, representing child mental health, child care licensing, and family services;
  - (16) A representative of the Delaware Department of Education, representing early childhood professional development, section 619 of IDEA, and State early learning guidelines; and
  - (17) *Ex officio*, non-voting members shall include the director of the Early Development and Learning Resource Work Group of the Department of Education, the chair of the Family

Support Coordinating Council, and the director of the State's Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The ECC may appoint *ex officio* members and advisors to assist them in meeting their responsibilities.

- (4) The Governor shall appoint a Chairperson from the non-governmental members of the ECC, and who shall serve as a member of the State's P-20 Council. The Chairperson shall coordinate the activities of the ECC. The ECC shall appoint a Vice-Chairperson from the non-governmental members of the ECC.

The Council has the option of creating the formally recognized roles for Advisors and Ex-Officio Members.

#### Officers

Chair – non-governmental, community member appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the IRMC presides at all Council meetings; coordinates all activities of ECC, sets agenda; calls meetings; and represents Council and acts on behalf of the Council.

Vice Chair – nongovernmental, community member appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the IRMC shall act in the absence of the Chair; and with staff support coordinates committee work.

#### Termination, Resignation, Vacancies

A Council Member may be terminated with cause by the Governor. Each Council Member must submit their resignation in writing.

Vacancies will be filled in accordance with the composition of the Council according to State Code.

### **Article IV - Meetings**

Delaware Early Childhood Council shall meet a minimum of six times each year. All meetings shall be held at the request of the Chair.

All meetings by the Delaware Early Childhood Council are open to all Delaware residents interested in early childhood.

#### Quorum

An affirmative vote of a majority of all voting members in attendance shall be required to take action.

**Article V Committees**

The ECC may form standing and ad hoc committees and subcommittees including, but not limited to: Professional Development, Quality Rating and Improvement System, Data, Higher Education Committee and the ECC Provider Committee. Non members of the Early Childhood Council may be appointed to committees and sub committees,

**Article VI Code of Conduct**

Members of the Council shall be bound by the State of Delaware Code of Conduct.

**Article VII**

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended, revised or replaced by a majority of the council membership. Each member must receive a copy of the proposed changes at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.

**Article VIII Reports**

Annual Report

The Council will submit an annual report to the Governor, General Assembly, and IRMC regarding the status of its work and the progress. A summary of the Council's work will be included in the IRMC's annual report.