



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

February 10, 2026

9:00 am to 12:00 pm | Open Public Meeting

Agenda

Time	Activity
9:00-9:10 am	Welcome & Virtual Meeting Protocols
9:10- 9:40 am	<p>ELAC Committee Business Goal/Outcome: The ELAC Executive Committee will open the meeting by providing members key updates for 2026 and going through the regular committee business, including reviewing meeting minutes, State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition updates, and the Feedback Loop document. Presenters: ELAC Executive Committee.</p>
9:40-10:10 am	<p>Early Learning Budget and Legislative Updates Goal/Outcome: Members will receive an update on what’s on top for early learning this legislative session, including budget considerations and potential impacts on early learning programs. Presenters: Nicole Rose (Assistant Secretary of Early Learning), Ruben Reeves (Assistant Secretary of Licensing).</p>
10:10am-10:45am	<p>Staff Qualifications Workgroup Updates Goal/Outcome: As part of HB 1648, DCFY has been tasked with establishing a Staff Qualifications Workgroup to help improve qualifications requirements and the verification process. Members will receive an update on the establishment of this workgroup and next steps. Presenters: Tiffany Lee (Senior Administrator of Workforce and Professional Development), Brett Skinner (Child Care Policy Manager, Licensing Division), Mindy Flett (Tribal Child Care Licensing Consultant), and Brogan Potter from Wenatchee Valley YMCA (Workgroup Member).</p>
10:45-11 am	Break
11-12 pm	<p>Understanding Our Workforce Data Goal/Outcome: DCYF has a vision for a qualified, well supported early learning workforce, and workforce data can help us collectively advance that vision by building a shared understanding of who makes up the workforce. We will review emerging workforce definitions, explore example data scenarios, and gather your recommendations about how to most meaningfully share workforce data in a responsive and collaborative way. Presenters: Karma Hugo (Workforce Systems Integration Administrator), and Julie Dean (Workforce Data and Systems Manager).</p>
12 pm	Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Executive Committee

Andrea Carrillo – ELAC Member

Dr. Brian Knowles – ELAC Member
Hanna Bruning – Regional Advisor Representative
Tanya Hutton – Regional Advisor Representative

DCYF Staff

Marlene White – marlene.white@dcyf.wa.gov
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Purpose

To build a comprehensive early learning system, ELAC will advise DCYF, engage in open dialogue to raise timely issues and diverse priorities, deliberate on and influence state and local policies and programs, and actively support stronger state and local connections.

Essential Racial Equity Questions

- *Is this policy, decision or practice good for kids, families and early learning educators of color?*
- *Do some kids, families and early learning educators benefit more or less than others?*
- *Do kids, families and early learning educators of color have access, and if not, why?*
- *What data and information is missing?*
- *Are there any unintended consequences?*

Community Agreements

ELAC is committed to creating a safe, respectful space where all voices are heard without judgment or censorship. Questions and input are welcomed, and active listening is essential as we work together to support whole child outcomes for Washington families. We share responsibility for one another’s learning. To support this, all participants agree to:

- Be Present & Engaged
- Be Forward Thinking
- Commit to the WHY? the WHAT? And the HOW?
- W.A.I.T. (Why am I Talking/ Why aren’t I Talking?)
- Eliminate Power Dynamics
- Listen for Understanding
- Be a Communication Conduit to Various Communities
- Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You
- Collective Sense-Making Before Decision-Making
- Be Comfortable with Messy Conversations
- Be an Advocate for and an Agent of Change
- Be Solution Focused
- Impact Over Intent, and Repair if Necessary
- Experience Discomfort
- Speak Your Truth
- Be Open to Non-Closure