



Early Childhood Advisory Council



ECAC QUARTERLY MEETING

JUNE 12, 2025



Early Childhood Advisory Council

New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

June 12, 2025, 10:30am-3:30pm

Location: The Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY, Meeting Rooms 2-3

Agenda Item	Topic	Presenters	Time
Welcome & Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• PDGB5 Updates• NYS Kids Count 2024 County Data Book• Strong Starts Court Initiative/ ECAC Liaison- Kelly Dodd, United Way of New York State• Federal Updates/ Litigation- Elana Marton, Council on Children and Families	Dona Anderson & Patty Persell	10:30am- 11:00am
State Agency Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYS Education Department, Office of Early Learning• NYS Education Department, Office of Special Education• NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services• NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention• NYS Department of State, Office of New Americans	Erik Sweet Suzanne Bolling Nora Yates Ray Pierce Laura Gonzalez-Murphy	11:00am- 11:45am
Advocacy Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Childhood Advocacy Updates	Jenn O'Connor	11:45am- 12:00pm
Working Lunch 12:00pm- 1:00pm			
Recommendation Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of Recommendations• Report-outs	Committee Co-Leads	1:00pm- 3:15pm
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Steps• Closing Remarks	Dona Anderson & Patty Persell	3:15pm- 3:30pm

INTRODUCTIONS



Early Childhood
Advisory Council

NEWLY APPOINTED ECAC MEMBER

Christina Guillén, MD
SUNY Downstate Health
Sciences University



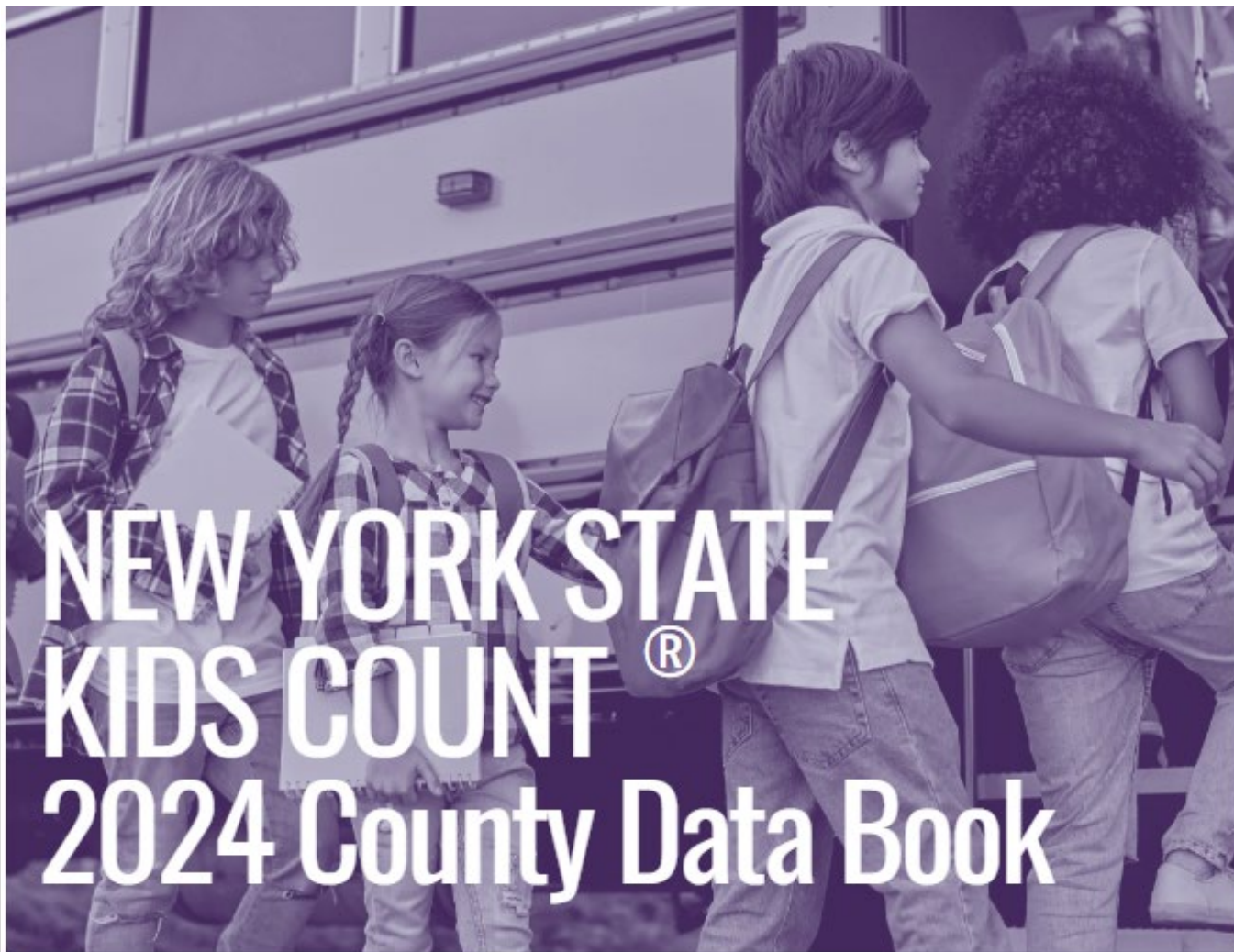
PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH-5 UPDATES



STRONG STARTS COURT INITIATIVE UPDATE

Kelly Dodd, United Way





NEW YORK STATE KIDS COUNT[®] 2024 County Data Book

Examining child poverty, chronic school absence,
and academic performance



Council on Children
and Families



**Council on Children
and Families**

FEDERAL UPDATES/ LITIGATION



ELANA MARTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

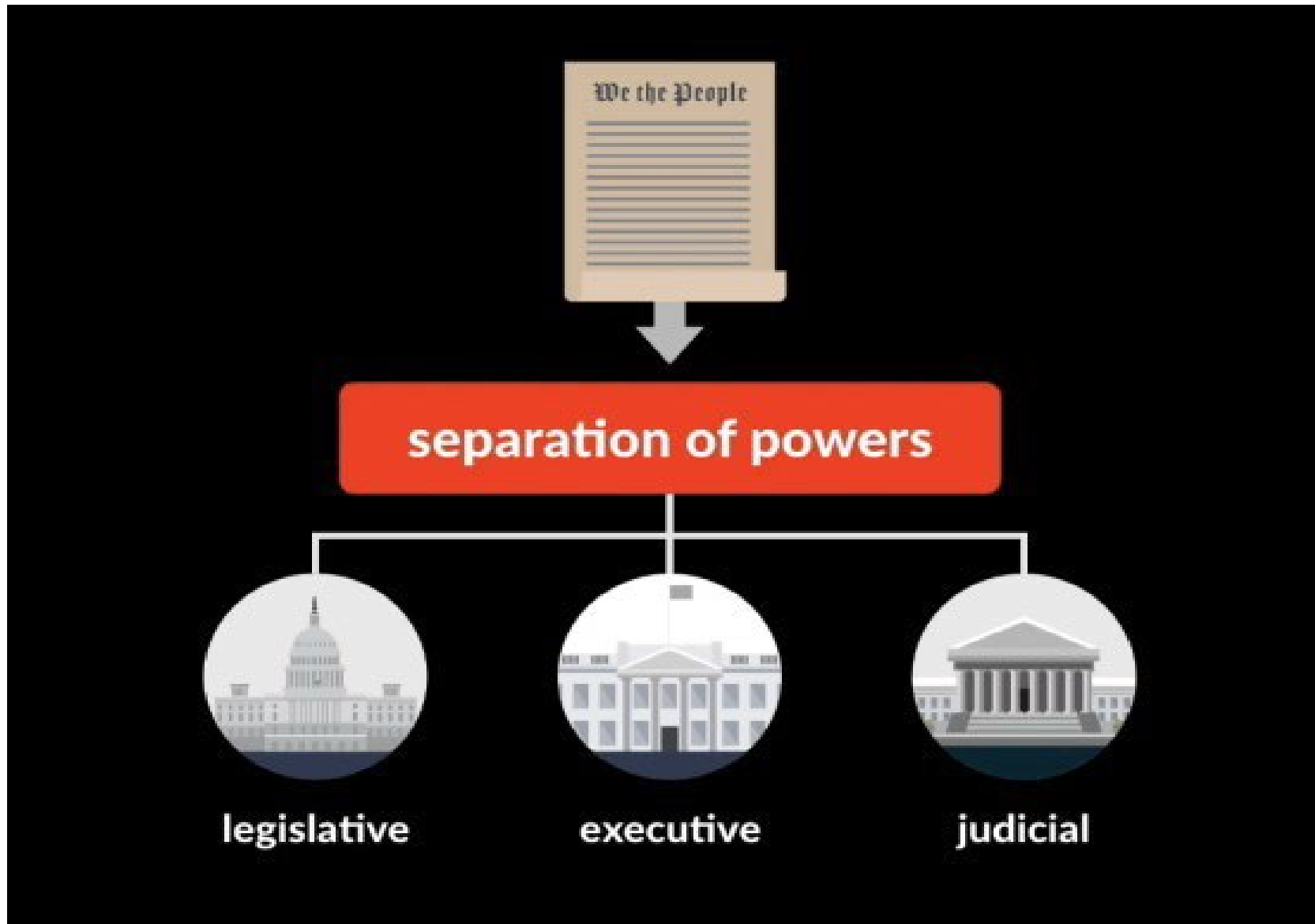
JUNE 20, 2025

Pillars of Democracy

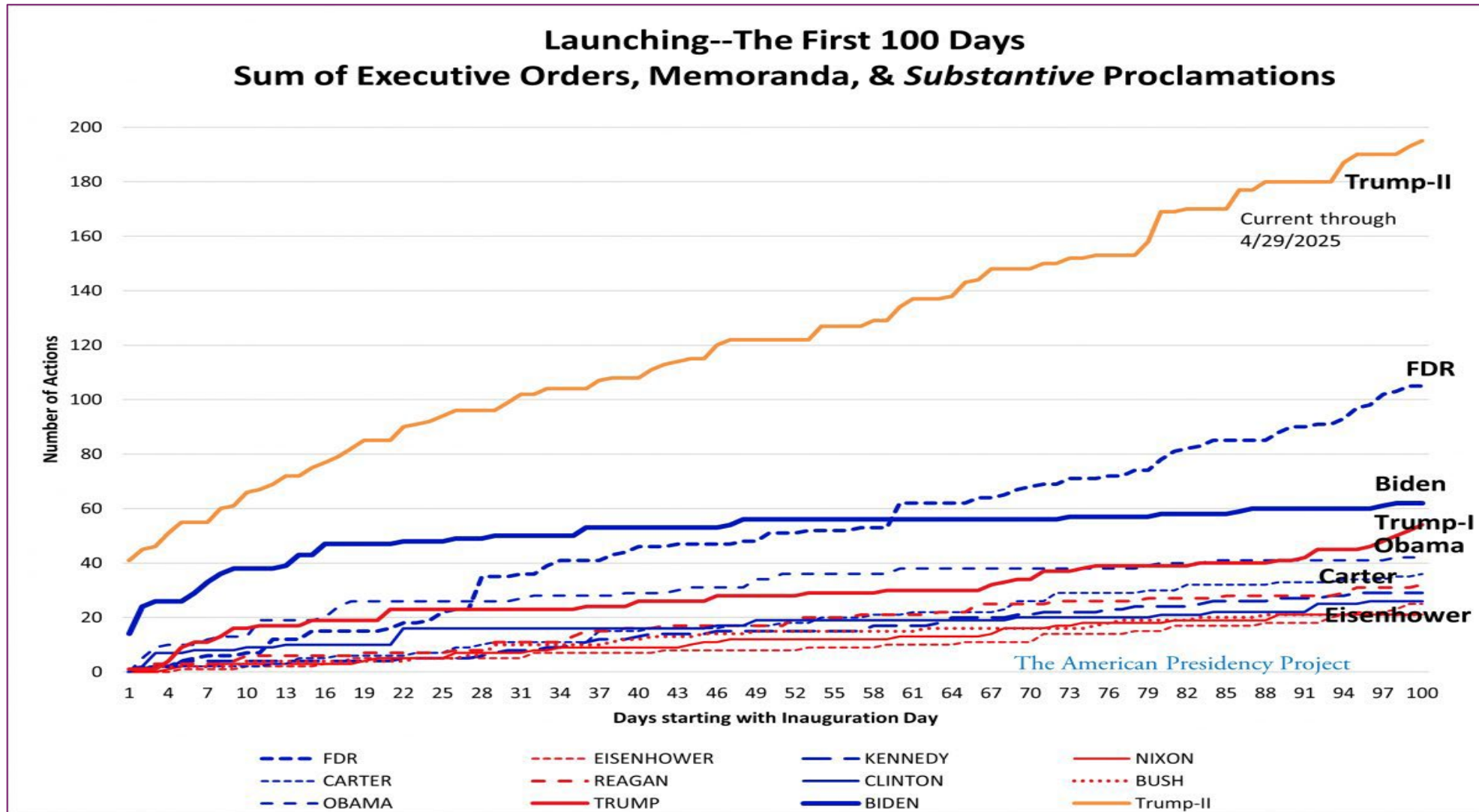
- Free and independent press
- Rule of law
- Independent judiciary
- Right to vote
- Informed citizens
- Separation of Powers



Back to Basics: The U.S. Constitution



100 Days: Executive Actions as a Means to Govern



Source: The American Presidency Project

Agency Name 1

Understanding Executive Orders 14148 and 14236

- In January & February, [Trump revoked 91](#) of President Biden's executive orders.
- Sixty-seven of those [revocations came](#) in a single EO ([EO 14148](#), "Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions"), representing the most extensive set of revocations ever issued in one EO.
- Trump revoked an [Obama-era order](#) protecting LGBTQ+ federal contractors, and the [underlying policy](#) for the order, first established by President Johnson in 1965.
- In March, President Trump introduced another sweeping EO titled "[Additional Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#)" (EO 14236). This EO revokes previous EOs concerning including but not limited to the following: the COVID-19 response, the foreign policy workforce and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), global LGBTQ+ rights, worker wages and unions, tribal self-determination, and labor rights.

Constitutional Rights Under Attack: 270+ Lawsuits Filed

- **First Amendment:** free speech, press, religion, protest, & assembly
- **Fourth Amendment:** protection against unreasonable searches and seizures
- **Fifth & Fourteenth Amendments:** due process and equal protection any constitutional protections at all.
- **Sixth Amendment:** Right to a fair and speedy trial & **Eighth Amendment:** protection against cruel and unusual punishment
- **Tenth Amendment:** states' rights
- **Fourteenth Amendment:** birthright citizenship

Supreme Court Case on Citizenship & Nationwide Injunctions

- A nationwide or universal injunction is a court order that prevents a government entity from enforcing a law, regulation, or policy across the entire nation.
- In the context of birthright citizenship, several federal courts issued nationwide injunctions, effectively blocking President Trump's EO that sought to end birthright citizenship for children born to undocumented parents.
- These injunctions have been appealed to the Supreme Court, raising questions about the scope of judicial authority to issue such broad orders.

NYS Attorney General Letitia James

- **OVER TWO DOZEN LAWSUITS FILED:** Challenging federal policies threatening to eliminate federal aid and dismantle vital programs: health and human services, grants to universities and research institutions, attacks on DEIA practices in schools.
- **WINS:** Temporarily halted the dismantling of DOE and AmeriCorp programs.



Litigation to Protect Head Start & Other Critical Programs

- Attorney General James led a coalition of 19 other attorneys general to sue the Trump administration's dismantling of US Department of Health and Human Services.
- Violation of the Constitution (Separation of Powers and the Appropriations Clause), the Administrative Procedures Act, & federal laws.
- Motion for a Preliminary Injunction: *NY v Kennedy* (filed on May 5th in U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island). Decision pending.
- Lawsuit by parent advocacy groups and Head Start providers also challenging Trump's dismantling of Head Start (*WA State Head Start Assn of Head Start et al. v. Kennedy* (filed May 16, 2025). Decision pending.

Governors' Letter to the President

Governor Hochul and 15 other governors signed a letter to the President that strongly voiced their support of Head Start.



As of today, Head Start funding remains flat funded for next federal FY.

Governor Hochul: Families Will Be Devastated

- If enacted, bill would “**gut New York’s healthcare system, strip families of nutrition benefits...and continue to unfairly tax hard-working New Yorkers by failing to fully repeal the SALT cap.**”

JUNE 6, 2025 | Albany, NY

**Governor Hochul’s Letter to
Senate GOP Leader: The ‘Big
Ugly’ Reconciliation Bill Will
Devastate New York Families**

Litigation Trackers

- **Just Security:**
<https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/>
- **Lawfare:**
<https://www.lawfaremedia.org/projects-series/trials-of-the-trump-administration/tracking-trump-administration-litigation>
- **New York Times:**
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html>



State Agency Updates

NYS Education Department

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

NYS Department of Health



Office of
Early
Learning

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

Update to the ECAC: June 12, 2025

**Erik Sweet, Executive Director:
Office of Early Learning**



UPK Update

**2025-2026 Budget
and priorities this
year**

**Navigating PreK
Day summary**

**2025-2026
application open
now!**

**UPK Collaboration
Council update**



P-3 Literacy Best Practices

A required tool to be utilized annually by public school districts in New York when reviewing curriculum and instruction for evidence and scientifically- based reading instruction, prior to submitting the attestation per law §818.



At-a-Glance

Instructional Best Practices at a Glance

Literacy Pillars	NYS Prekindergarten–3rd Grade Literacy Instructional Best Practices	Grades
Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model fluent reading on a daily basis. Provide daily opportunities for students to practice reading fluency. Model fluent reading for students by reading with expression, gestures and facial expressions, and intonation in voice. Incorporate daily interactive oral reading structures into whole and small group instruction to model and expose students to early reading habits and strategies. Incorporate daily interactive oral reading structures into whole- and small-group instruction to model, practice, and provide feedback to students as they develop reading skills and strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreK-3 PreK-3 PreK K-1 2-3
Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach students to activate background knowledge prior to reading. Engage in high-quality shared book reading and ensure students connect to texts daily. Ask questions and engage students in conversations surrounding text daily. Model and explicitly teach comprehension strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreK-3 PreK-3 PreK-3 PreK-3
Oral Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan activities to expand and practice language skills. Engage students in conversations. Intentionally plan activities to build children's language skills. Create a language-rich environment in which students engage in meaningful conversations. Teach students academic language skills, including the use of inferential and narrative language. Engage students in conversations that support the use of inferential language. Explicitly engage students in developing narrative language skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreK-3 PreK-3 PreK PreK K-3 K-3 K-3
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach students to become fluent with handwriting, spelling, sentence construction, typing, and word processing. Teach students to use the writing process for a variety of purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K-3 K-3

Instructional Best Practices at a Glance

Literacy Pillars	NYS Prekindergarten–3rd Grade Literacy Instructional Best Practices	Grades
Phonemic Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop awareness of the segments of sound in speech. Teach students to manipulate sounds in speech, focusing on orally blending and segmenting words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreK-1 K-1
Phonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach students letter-sound relations. Introduce letters (graphemes) with the sounds (phonemes) they make. Provide opportunities to practice letter identification and sounds. Use word-building and other activities to link students' knowledge of letter-sound relationships with phonemic awareness. Develop an awareness of segments of sounds in speech and how they correspond to letters. Teach students to decode words, analyze word parts and write and recognize words. Teach students to blend letter sounds and sound-spelling patterns. Teach common sound-spelling patterns. Teach students to recognize common word parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreK-3 PreK PreK K K-1 1-3 2-3 2-3 2-3
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan activities to expand and practice vocabulary. Introduce words and their meanings. Engage students in activities to enhance vocabulary and language skills. Teach vocabulary in the context of other reading activities. Facilitate activities that actively engage students in the development of their vocabulary and language skills. Teach students academic language skills, including the use of inferential language, and vocabulary knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreK-3 PreK-3 PreK-3 PreK-3 K-1 2-3



Early Learning Institute August 7th, 2025

SAVE THE DATE Early Learning Institute

Presented by NYSED's Office of Early Learning



August 7th, 2025



9:30am - 3:00pm



NYS Museum
Albany, NY

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Commissioner Betty A. Rosa



Lester W. Young, Jr., Ed.D.
Chancellor, Board of Regents



Lauren Moore
New York State Librarian

SESSIONS TO INCLUDE:

- The Arts
- Literacy
- P-3 Transitions
- Science Everywhere
- Office of Cultural Education Resources
- More topics to be added

REGISTER HERE
starting
May 29th at 9:30 AM



WWW.NYSED.GOV/EARLY-LEARNING

2024-2025 Summary of Resources!

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING TOP 10 GREATEST HITS *of the* 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR

The following is a highlight of the resources produced by the Office of Early Learning in the 2024-2025 school year.



1 P-3 Literacy Resources

This year, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) created multiple literacy resources available at the link above. This included the P-3 Literacy Instructional Best Practices Guide, P-3 Literacy Attestation Memo, and recordings of the Literacy Webinar Event that took place on January 7th, 2025.



2 2024- 2025 Early Learning Webinar Series

The Office of Early Learning offered a P-3 webinar series that focused on resources and tools for classroom teachers, school administrators, and P-3 educators. Webinars covered various topics including science, behavior, inclusion, and multilingual learners.

3 P-3 Learning Continuum Webinars

A series of webinars were created to support understanding and use of the P-3 Instructional Toolkit. These webinars give an overview of the toolkit and highlight how several districts across New York State have used it to increase the use of effective, equitable P-3 instructional strategies.

4 Science Everywhere

Science Everywhere is an early learning initiative that emphasizes inquiry-based learning for young children. Led by the Office of Early Learning and Office of Cultural Education, the program fosters children's love for science and nature through hands-on learning experiences.



5 Kindergarten Transition Toolkit

The transition toolkit is a resource to aid in planning, implementing, and evaluating Kindergarten transition activities. It aims to ensure all stakeholders are prepared, engaged, and working collaboratively to support children's successful entry into Kindergarten and promote positive educational outcomes.



6 P-3 Cultural Connections

In collaboration with the Office of Cultural Education, the Cultural Connections digital resource kit was created to help New York State schools and early childhood programs connect students with cultural institutions like museums and science centers to enhance STEAM and history learning through hands-on cultural experiences.

Please Subscribe



OEL P 3 Newsletter



UPK Newsletter



THANK YOU

Thank you for your attention and participation.
Let's work together to shape a better world
through education.

CONTACT US

- 📞 518-474-5807
- 🌐 www.nysed.gov/early-learning
- ✉️ OEL@nysed.gov





2025-26 Tuition Rate Setting Methodology Proposal

2025–26 Rate Setting Methodology Proposal

Tuition rate setting methodology recommendations for preschool and school-age special education providers
currently under review by DOB

1. 2.9% Tuition Rate Growth

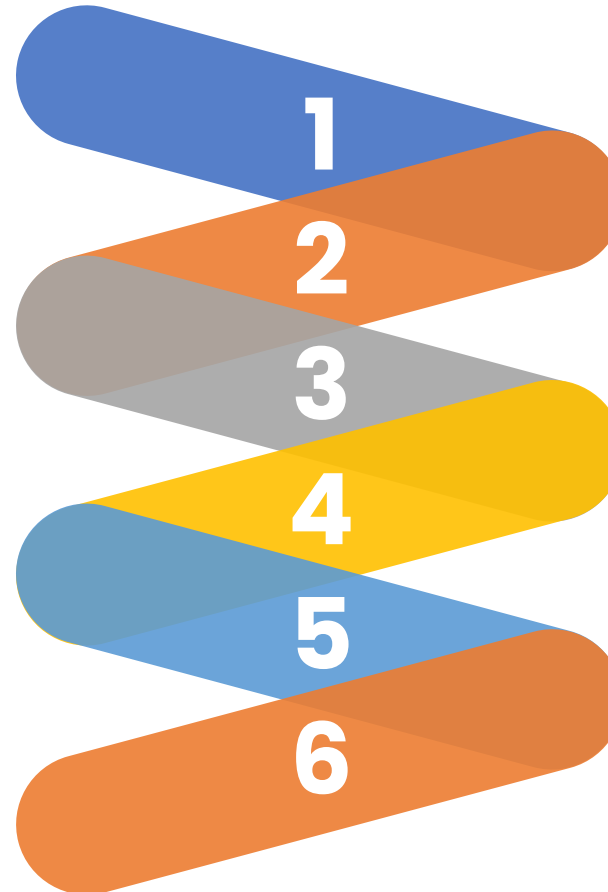
Proposed 2.9% growth for preschool Special Class, SCIS, SEIS, and school-age programs.

2. 4% Evaluation Rate Growth

Proposed to increase multi-disciplinary evaluation rates by 4%

3. Higher Of Reform

Proposed to continue reform that will help mitigate impact of underspending on future rates



4. Interim Plus Plus

Proposed that interim rates continue to include compounded growth when issued

5. Enrollment Adjustment

Requested 5% enrollment adjustment factor

6. 35% Non-Direct Care

Proposed the non-direct care screen remain at 35%

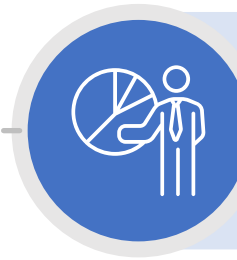


Tuition Rate Setting Redesign Study

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2023

Tuition Rate Setting Methodology Redesign

The state education department shall conduct a comprehensive study of alternative tuition rate-setting methodologies for approved providers operating school-age programs receiving funding under article 81 and article 89 of the education law and providers operating approved preschool special education programs under section 4410 of the education law.



Stakeholder Engagement



Analysis of other NYS Agency Approaches



Methodology or Methodologies Options and Recommendations



Cost Estimates & Comparison Analysis

Methodology Redesign

Progress to Date

**September
2023**

Conducted
initial
stakeholder
engagement
sessions

August 2024

Selected
consultant,
Brodsky
Research,
through RFP

**January
2025**

Issued report
on findings
from
stakeholder
engagement
sessions

**October
2023**

Began
conducting
study site
visits

December 2024

Began working
with Brodsky on
analysis of
current
methodology

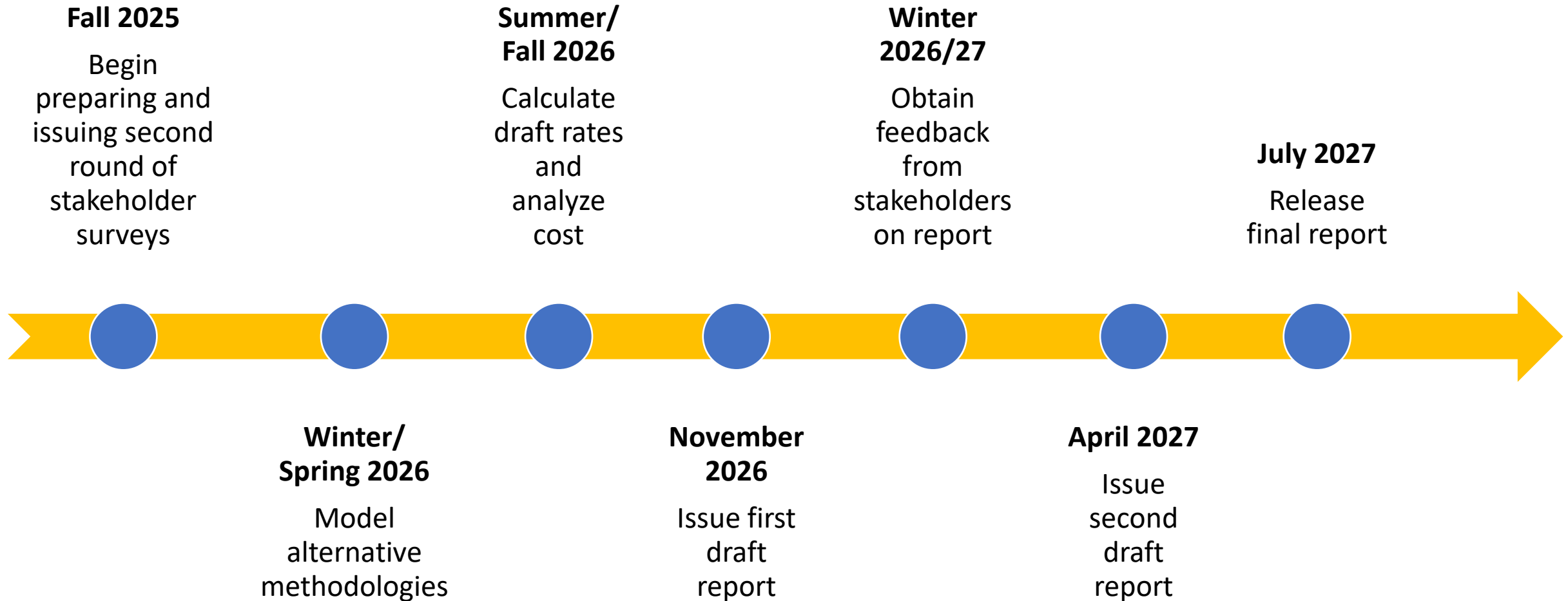
May 2025

Began analysis
of other
agencies'
methodologies



Methodology Redesign

Looking Ahead





Questions

AGENDA

- Big Ideas and Statewide Realities
- 2025-2026 Enacted Budget Overview
- CCDF Updates
- Impact Project Update
- Child Care Assistance Program Updates
- Other Child Care Updates

Advocacy Updates

Jenn O'Connor



**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**

ECAC Advocacy Presentation

UPDATE

June 12, 2025

What was in the Enacted State Budget?

- Expanded Child Tax Credit
 - Eliminates the phase-in
 - \$1,000/child under age four
 - \$500/child up to age 17
- Child Care
 - \$400M to backfill the CCAP shortfall
 - \$350M (competitive grants) for NYC/ROS; \$50M (non-competitive) for ROS
 - Funds substitute pools, to be administered by CCRRs
 - \$100M for capital projects
 - \$1M for business/labor leader coalition
- Afterschool
 - Expands access to some LEAPS contracts
 - Nearly \$9M added; most goes to a COLA

Enacted Budget...continued

- Baby Benefit
 - \$1,800 to 5,000 TANF recipients at birth
- Newborn Baby Bags
- Home Visiting
 - Flat-funded
- Early Intervention
 - Zero investment
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - \$1M investment
- Help Me Grow
 - \$1M investment

What happened post-budget?

- Child Care Bills
 - Wait list bill passed; goes to Governor
 - Automatic rate increase/cost model bill probably dead
 - Ratio bill still in play
- Early Intervention Bill
 - Rate reform study bill still in play (perhaps)

What's happening at the federal level?



Small Federal Advocacy Group

- EdTrust--New York, Schuyler Center, CDF, TCA, WCA...
- Host of issues to work on!
- Collecting stories/data
- Keeping in touch with congressional leaders
- Sharing info with all congressional offices
- Educating state leaders re: how fed cuts will impact NYS families
- Legislature may return in Sept to address fed cuts

ECAC GROUP PHOTO



LUNCH



ECAC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMER - RECS SHARED WITH CHAMBER

JUNE

If approved,
recommendation goes
to the Governor

Committee Idea
Generation

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

**RECOMMENDATION
PROCESS:
HOW AN IDEA BECOMES
A RECOMMENDATION**

Full ECAC
reviews ideas

SEPTEMBER

Refine
Recommendations

MARCH - MAY

APRIL - NYS BUDGET

Committees present
recommendation to the
Full ECAC

MARCH

If idea is approved,
committee begins to work
to develop the
recommendation

SEPTEMBER - MARCH

Co-Leads
present work to
the Steering
Committee

DECEMBER

JANUARY - STATE OF THE STATE

Report Outs

Racial Equity

Family and Community Resources

Workforce Development

Policy

ECAC Next Steps

2025 ECAC Meetings:

September 25th	10:30am- 3:30pm	The Empire State Plaza 100 S Mall Arterial, Meeting Rooms 2-3 Albany, NY 12242
December 11th	10:30am-3:30pm	Virtual



**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**

ECAC Meeting Survey





Early Childhood Advisory Council