

We envision Illinois as a place where every young child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, geography, ability, immigration status, or other circumstance – receives the strongest possible start to life so that they grow up safe, healthy, happy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Executive Committee Meeting
February 21, 2023**

Join from the meeting link

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=md4c6043c6ea30d276cc11a6ac36a1687>

Meeting number (access code): 2469 067 7921

Meeting password: TSghX6j8BV6

Agenda

4:00 PM Welcome

Brief welcome from ELC Co-chairs Phyllis Glink, Executive Director, Irving B. Harris Foundation & Martin Torres, Deputy Governor for Education, Office of the Governor JB Pritzker

4:05 PM ISBE Presentation

Jason Helfer & Carisa Hurley, Illinois State Board of Education

4:15 PM DHS Presentation

Kirstin Chernawsky, Department of Early Childhood, DHS

4:25 PM EC ACE Consortium and Scholarship Program Updated

Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board

4:35 PM Open Discussion

1. Q & A
2. Preliminary committee project planning and
3. Discussion of topics for break-out sessions at full ELC meeting

5:00 PM Public Comment

5:10 PM Adjourn

Racial Equity Definition: A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Racial Equity Priorities:

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;