

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-05

ESTABLISHING THE IDAHO EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the long-term academic success of children is dependent on third grade reading proficiency, with a foundation built on the language and literacy experiences of children from birth to age five; and

WHEREAS, the deliberate coordination of Idaho's public and private early childhood services will allow for greater efficiency, expanded parental choice, and allow for a more accurate inventory of existing services, programs and initiatives for use by families and policymakers; and

WHEREAS, early childhood development is directly linked to economic development because it improves the quality of the future workforce and has been shown to create cost savings to taxpayers by reducing the need for educational remediation and diminishing social service and other government service utilization; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's quality of life and long-term economic prosperity depend on a well- educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 USC§ 9837b(b)(1), requires the governor of each state to designate or establish a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care ("State Advisory Council") as part of a parallel federal effort to ensure coordination and collaboration within the states; and

WHEREAS, the governor is further required to designate an individual charged with coordinating the activities of the State Advisory Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order creation of the Idaho Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), and in so doing do also order that:

1. The ECAC is designated as the State Advisory Council required by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.
2. *The ECAC shall:*
 - a. *conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high- quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the state;*
 - b. *identify opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state-funded child development, childcare, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs;*
 - c. *develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local childcare and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;*
 - d. *develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state;*

- e. develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the state;*
 - f. assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the state toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre-kindergarten program;*
 - g. make recommendations for improvements in-state early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate; and*
 - h. carry out other responsibilities as designated by the Governor.*
3. *The ECAC's annual report shall be submitted to the Governor no later than December 31, 2023.*
4. *ECAC's members shall be appointed by the Governor, with activities to be coordinated and staffed by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, whose executive director shall serve as the ex-officio chair. Members will be appointed to represent the following:*
- a. Representatives from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare who represent:*
 - 1. childcare,*
 - 2. Medicaid services,*
 - 3. the ID.EA. Part C early intervention program, and*
 - 4. mental health services;*
 - b. the Idaho State Board of Education;*
 - c. the Idaho State Department of Education;*
 - d. a local school district;*
 - e. an institution of higher education;*
 - f. a local provider of early childhood education and development services;*
 - g. a local Head Start agency;*
 - h. the State Director of Head Start Collaboration;*
 - i. a member of the Idaho Senate;*
 - j. a member of the Idaho House of Representatives;*
 - k. representatives of other entities determined to be relevant by the Governor.*
5. *The Council shall develop and adopt bylaws governing its operation and may accept funds from private, federal, state, or public agencies and any other sources in accordance with state law. The funds shall be used to support statewide efforts in development and sustainability of this council and early childhood programs and services.*



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 19th day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-seventh, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirty-third.

A blue ink signature of Brad Little, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

A blue ink signature of Lawrence Denney, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE