

Examples of State Advisory Roles and Functions from Other States

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The following four examples other State Advisory Councils roles and functions were compiled from telephone interviews and on-line research.

New Hampshire – New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council

- The NH Early Childhood Advisory Council was created by the governor in 2009
- **Role:** Advise and provide recommendations to the Governor’s office, the legislature, and state agencies including the Department of Education
- **Mission¹:** “The Council provides leadership that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated, sustainable early childhood system that achieves positive outcomes for young children and families, investing in a solid future for the Granite State.”
- **Functions/Main Activities²:**
 - Serve as the primary advisory body to the Governor’s Office, state legislature, and state agencies regarding early care and education issues in the State of NH;
 - Conduct a needs assessment
 - Identify opportunities and barriers regarding collaboration and coordination
 - Coordinate early care and education-related resources
 - Promote changes in policy, legislation and practice that support and/or improve the lives of families who are expecting a child and/or who have children aged birth through grade 3
 - Assess the capacity and effectiveness of NH’s Institutions of Higher Education to support the development of early childhood educators
 - Generate recommendations for:
 - Increasing participation in federal/state/local ECE programs
 - Establishing a unified data system for public early childhood care and education programs and services to facilitate data-informed decision making
 - Promoting statewide professional development/career advancement for early childhood educators
 - Improving state early learning standards
 - Provide strategic direction to state and community leaders
 - Hold public hearings
- **Guiding Principles³:**
 - The Council will build on recent and ongoing early childhood planning efforts, research, and initiatives as well as lessons learned from national resources and input from stakeholders.
 - Communication, coordination, collaboration, and partnership across all sectors of the community, both public and private, ensure the effectiveness and impact of services.

¹ New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council, *Strategic Report 7/21/11*.

http://earlylearningnh.org/uploaddir/NH_ECAC_STRATEGIC_REPORT_7_21_10.pdf

² New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council, *Strategic Report 7/21/11*.

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³ New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council, *Strategic Report 7/21/11*.

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New Jersey – New Jersey Council for Young Children

- The New Jersey Council for Young Children was established by Executive Order in January 2010.
- **Roles:**
 - Advise and provide recommendations to the state Department of Education
 - Assure the collaboration and coordination of all early childhood programs in the state
- **Functions:**
 - Develop statewide strategic report followed by annual reports to the governor on statewide activities aligned with the strategic report
 - Specifically, the Council is charged with:
 - Conducting a needs assessment of the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs, particularly for low-income children;
 - Identifying ways to better collaborate and coordinate federally and state-funded programs and agencies;
 - Developing recommendations for increasing participation of children, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
 - Developing recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system;
 - Developing recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans;
 - Assessing the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education to address the needs of early childhood educators; and
 - Making recommendations for improvements in state early learning standards and, where appropriate, develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards.⁴

⁴ State of New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education. *Facts about the NJ Council for Young Children*. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/njcyc/facts.htm>

Delaware – Delaware Early Childhood Council

- The Delaware Early Childhood Council was originally authorized by Executive Order of the Governor in 2001.
- **Roles:**
 - Provide advice to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC).
 - Carry out all of the functions designated in the federal *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007* and other functions as assigned by the Governor, General Assembly, and the Interagency Resource Management Committee.
 - Guide and provide oversight to the state’s implementation of a comprehensive early childhood system.
- **Mission⁵**
 - 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.
- **Strategic Goals⁶**
 - Strengthen governance and alignment of early childhood policies, programs, practices, standards, and financing that enhance outcomes and uniform oversight across state agencies, and expand collaborations with private and nonprofit partners and federal agencies.
 - Integrate service delivery across agencies and sectors to address the developmental needs of all young children and their families, especially those placed at risk because of developmental delays, poverty, neglect or abuse, and other risk factors.
 - Enhance the State's data and information system to fully incorporate early childhood, and use that system as well as periodic analysis of programs, policies, and outcomes to monitor and improve state services, inform and assist private service providers and schools, and enable policymakers to identify what is working and what is needed.
 - Establish and coordinate a statewide, cross-sector early childhood professional development system that includes partnerships with K-12 education, higher education, business, and community institutions and that enables all early childhood providers to participate in affordable, high quality professional development.
 - Enable early childhood providers to achieve and sustain increasing levels of quality as defined by appropriate early childhood standards, including the State's early learning guidelines, child care licensing regulations, Delaware Stars for Early Success, and national accreditation standards.
 - Improve the alignment and efficient use of early childhood funding across agencies and increase public financing to meet the true cost of quality early childhood services for all families across all geographic locations, socio-economic groups, and child ability levels; this includes adequate compensation and tiered reimbursement to all qualified providers, the full financing of Delaware Stars, increasing subsidies to low-income families, and integrated funding of Delaware's early childhood programs with elementary education.

⁵ Delaware Department of Education, Delaware Early Childhood Council. *Delaware Early Childhood Council*. http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/decc.shtml

⁶ Delaware Department of Education, Delaware Early Childhood Council. *Delaware Early Childhood Council*. http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/decc.shtml

Florida – State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care State Early Learning Advisory Council

- Florida has *two advisory bodies* that are tied together by a liaison who works to ensure that the work of each advisory body informs the work of the other, and to ensure the development of a unified, coordinated statewide system of early childhood education and care.
- The *Florida State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care* was established by the governor in 2010.
 - **Role:** Advise the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
 - **Purpose and mission:** “...lead the development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education and care that ensures statewide coordination and collaboration among a wide array of early childhood programs and services in the State for children ages birth to 5 years. Programs and services include Head Start, child care, and pre-kindergarten programs and services.” (*The Reauthorized Head Start Act of 2007, H.R. 1492*)
 - **Worthy of Note:** One chair from one of the 31 Early Learning Coalitions (which represents all of the state’s 67 counties) is elected (from within all of the ELCs) to be a member of this council
- *Florida Early Learning Advisory Council* was established in 2007 (Florida Statue 1002.77).
 - **Role:** Submit recommendations to the Agency for Workforce Innovation Office of Early Learning
 - **Membership**” The Chair of each of the state’s 31 regional Early Learning Council’s are members of the council to provide local voice and system coordination
 - **Committee Structure:** There are three sub-committees
 - Systems Development Committee
 - Messaging for ELAC
 - Quality Committee
 - Identification of ways to increase quality of early childhood education and care
 - Policy Committee
 - Tracks policy, recommends positions to larger ELAC group for unified message and common voice on issues of importance