



Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

Executive Order 2023-22 – Early Learning Investment Commission

Date: December 13, 2023

A blue ink signature of Josh Shapiro.

By Direction of:
Josh Shapiro, Governor

WHEREAS, the early learning, development, and education of young children is of critical importance to Pennsylvania's families, education system, workers, and employers; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continues to increase its investment in early learning, development, and education programs, and has made steady progress to assure that more children receive quality early learning and development services; and

WHEREAS, the continued development of an effective sustainable system of early care and education is critical to Pennsylvania's future economic and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, the input, perspective, and support of business leaders is essential to the development of a successful early childhood system; and

WHEREAS, fostering public and private sector investment in continued economic growth by addressing the needs of and challenges faced by all families with children, especially the Commonwealth's low-income families with children, is essential to assure Pennsylvania's edge in the national and global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, connecting existing workforce development initiatives with early learning practices is educationally and economically beneficial for all people within Pennsylvania.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby reestablish the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission (hereafter referred to as the "Commission") and, further, order and direct as follows:

1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Commission is to secure support for public and private-sector investment in early learning by focusing on practices that are educationally, economically, and scientifically sound.

2. Responsibilities.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

- a.** Make strategic recommendations for the Commonwealth to coordinate with business and civic leaders and organizations in early learning to plan and advocate for investment at the state and local level.
- b.** Develop and recommend a plan and implementation strategy to:
 - (1)** Stabilize the early childcare workforce and increase access to affordable, available, and accessible childcare for all Pennsylvania families, regardless of income.
 - (2)** Ensure the availability of universal pre-K for Pennsylvania children.
 - (3)** Expand the availability of all-day kindergarten in all Pennsylvania public school districts and charter schools.
- c.** Develop and recommend strategies to increase business, civic, and public awareness of the importance of early childhood education.
- d.** Make recommendations as to the planning, implementing, and hosting of an Annual Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment. The Annual Economic Summit shall include outreach to business, civic, educational, and governmental leaders.
- e.** Make recommendations as to the planning and implementation of an annual meeting for legislators and legislative staff to assist them with understanding the economic, educational, and social impact of investing in quality early childhood education.
- f.** Develop and recommend updates to a multi-year plan for the expansion of effective early childhood services.
- g.** Identify private sector financial support for early learning projects throughout the Commonwealth and match those funding sources with needs identified within the local community.
- h.** Identify and advocate for sustainable funding sources and early learning projects within a permanent sustainable network of private and public-sector funding streams.
- i.** Consult or engage experts, economists, consultants, advisors, or other personnel to assist with the Commission's purpose and responsibilities.
- j.** Meet at least twice a year and at the call of the Chair of the Commission. Commission members may attend meetings in-person or virtually, or through a combination thereof, at the discretion of the Chair. In-person or virtual participation shall be considered attendance for purposes of constituting a quorum.

3. Composition.

a. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- (1)** Secretary of the Budget or the Secretary's designee;
- (2)** Secretary of Policy and Planning or the Secretary's designee;
- (3)** Secretary of Community and Economic Development or the Secretary's designee;
- (4)** Secretary of Corrections or the Secretary's designee;
- (5)** Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee;
- (6)** Secretary of Labor and Industry or the Secretary's designee;
- (7)** Secretary of Human Services or the Secretary's designee;
- (8)** Secretary of Health or the Secretary's designee;
- (9)** Deputy Secretary of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (hereafter referred to as "OCDEL") or the Deputy Secretary's designee; and
- (10)** High-level business executives, who collectively are diverse and represent the Commonwealth's population and the diversity of economic sectors and regions in the Commonwealth. These members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

b. The Chair of the Commission. The Governor shall designate a Chair and a Vice-Chair of the Commission, or may designate two persons as Co-Chairs, from among the Commission Members. The Chair and Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs, shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall appoint members from the Commission to a Nominating Committee, which Nominating Committee shall make recommendations to the Governor of the business executives for Commission membership.

4. Term.

Commission Members appointed by the Governor, and not serving by virtue of their official position with the Commonwealth, shall serve for a term of three (3) years and may continue to serve until their successor is appointed.

5. Compensation.

Members of the Commission shall not receive compensation for their service on the Commission. Members may receive reimbursement for reasonable travel costs and related expenses incurred while performing Commission business in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

6. Relationship with other agencies.

All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance to the Commission, as requested, to carry out the purpose and responsibilities as set forth in this Executive Order.

7. Relationship with the Team Pennsylvania Foundation.

The Commission shall work jointly with the Team Pennsylvania Foundation (Team PA) in furtherance of their common mission, duties, and responsibilities to develop and sustain educational opportunities in the Commonwealth, particularly early learning, development, and education of young children.

8. Implementation.

This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law. This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other persons.

9. Effective Date.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

10. Termination Date.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Governor.

11. Rescission.

Effective immediately, *Executive Order 2017-05*, dated December 20, 2017, is hereby rescinded.