

Background Information: Commission on Professional Excellence in ECE

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3 key things to know about the Commission on Professional Excellence in Early Childhood Education (ECE):

- It is a profession-led governance structure that currently includes a diverse range of 27 individuals, comprising representatives from 16 early childhood workforce-oriented organizations and 11 early childhood educators from a variety of states and settings.
- Its primary duties are to hold the standards, competencies, and guidelines of the profession; set the parameters for quality assurance of individuals and professional preparation programs; and coordinate with state and federal bodies to promote alignment with the profession's recommendations.
- Its future work includes: designating additional guidelines for the profession; designating accreditors of professional preparation programs; approving specializations; and advocating for a B-8 licensure structure.

What was the process for creating the Commission on Professional Excellence in ECE?

- A transition group designed to bridge from the Power to the Profession Task Force to the Professional Governance Body (PGB), per recommendations embedded within the *Unifying Framework*, met from August through December 2020 to establish initial guidelines to stand up the PGB, which they designated as the Commission on Professional Excellence in Early Childhood Education ("Commission" or "Commission on Professional Excellence").
- The Commission, which is initially being hosted and staffed by NAEYC, began meeting with an initial set of 17 organizational members in 2021. These organizational members approved governing policies, elected a chair, and created an application process (opened in April 2022) for early childhood educators to join the Commission as co-equal voting members.
- Educator members were selected from a pool of more than 400 applicants in 2022 and began participating in Commission meetings in December 2022. Organizational members are paying dues to cover expenses for early childhood educator members and operations of the Commission.
- The Commission membership and leadership will continue to evolve over time.

As of Spring 2023, what has the Commission on Professional Excellence in ECE been working on?

- Developing legislative and regulatory language to support states interested in developing a pathway to a professional licensure structure for early childhood educators, as outlined in the *Unifying Framework*. In keeping with the Implementation Commitments, access to the language is predicated on *interested states also working to simultaneously invest in the compensation and educational pathways of the ECE workforce*.
- Given the Commission's charge to set parameters for licensure assessment, the Commission is currently exploring how licensure assessments are designed and governed in other professions and has developed principles for guiding Commission deliberations related to ECE professional licensure assessments.
- It is also exploring the current landscape of ECE licensure assessments and is establishing a decision-making sequence with regard to how and whether existing assessments can be recognized as ECE I, II, or III assessments, and/or whether new assessments would need to be developed.