

# ECACE Advisory Committee Members

Updated: October 22, 2025

Appointee Name	Appointing Entity	Affiliation / Organization	Appointment Category	Term Expiration
<b>Ginger Ostro</b>	<b>IBHE</b>	<b>Illinois Board of Higher Education</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler	IBHE	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Francis Godwyll	IBHE	Illinois State University	Other Experts	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Lisa Downey	IBHE	National Louis University	Private University, College of Education	<b>31-Oct-28</b>
Laurie Elish-Piper	IBHE	Northern Illinois University	Rural Public University, College of Education	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Joi Patterson	IBHE	Governors State University	Suburban Public University, College of Education	<b>31-Oct-28</b>
Jennifer Buchter	IBHE	Eastern Illinois University	Union Representing Higher Education Faculty	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Kimberly McClellan	IBHE	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Union Representing Higher Education Faculty	<b>31-Oct-28</b>
Tom Phillion	IBHE	Northeastern Illinois University	Urban Public University, College of Education	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
<b>Adrienne Pickett</b>	<b>ICCB</b>	<b>Illinois Community College Board</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Jim Reed	ICCB	Illinois Community College Trustee Association	Organization that Advocates on Behalf of Community College Trustees	<b>31-Oct-28</b>
Ken Trzaska	ICCB	Community College Presidents Council, Lewis & Clark Community College	Other Experts	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Meredith Palmer	ICCB	Richland College	Rural Community College	<b>31-Oct-28</b>
Tywanda Jiles	ICCB	Prairie State College	Suburban Community College	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Kate Connor	ICCB	Harry S. Truman College	Urban Community College	<b>31-Oct-28</b>
Edie Washington	IDCFS	Illinois Department of Child & Family Services	Department of Children and Family Services	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
<b>Ann Whalen</b>	<b>IDEC</b>	<b>Illinois Department of Early Childhood</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Rochelle Golliday	IDEC	Cuddle Care	Community-Based Child Care Provider	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Stephanie Neuman	IDEC	Kountry Kids Learning Center	Employer in Central Illinois	<b>31-Oct-25</b>
Jill Andrews	IDEC	Kiddie Kollege/SIECAT (Southern Illinois Early Childhood Action Team)	Employer in Southern Illinois	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Toni Porter	IDEC	INCCRRA	INCCRRA	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Lauri Morrison-Frichtl	IDEC	Illinois Head Start Association	Other Experts	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Michael Kim	IDEC	Illinois Action for Children	Statewide Advocate	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Erika Méndez	IDEC	Latino Policy Forum	Statewide Advocate	<b>31-Oct-25</b>
<b>Zachary Allen</b>	<b>IDHS</b>	<b>Illinois Department of Human Services</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Martina Rocha	IDHS	Together for Network	Family Child Care Provider	<b>31-Oct-25</b>
Emnet Gebrehiwet Ward	IDHS	Eyes on the Future	For-Profit Child Care Provider	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Ashley Harms	IDHS	Amity Child Care Center	Non-Profit Child Care Provider	<b>31-Oct-25</b>
Evelyn Osorio	IDHS	Service Employees International Union	Union Representing Child Care and Early Childhood Providers	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
<b>Joyce Gronewold</b>	<b>ISBE</b>	<b>Illinois State Board of Education</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Amanda Christensen	ISBE	Regional Office of Education, DeKalb County, Regional Office of Education 16	Rural School District	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Susan Orozco	ISBE	East Aurora 131	Suburban District	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Alicia Geddis	ISBE	Danville School District 118	Urban District	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Leslie Mckinily	ISBE	Chicago Public Schools 299	Chicago Public Schools	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Vacant	Legislature	House Higher Education Committee	Minority Spokesperson, House Higher Education Committee	<b>31-Oct-27</b>
Vacant	Legislature	Senate Higher Education Committee	Minority Spokesperson, Senate Higher Education Committee	<b>31-Oct-25</b>
Vacant	Legislature	House Higher Education Committee	Chair/Vice-Chair, House Higher Education Committee	<b>31-Oct-26</b>
Vacant	Legislature	Senate Higher Education Committee	Chair/Vice-Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee	<b>31-Oct-27</b>