

ECACE Advisory Committee Members

Updated: September 2, 2025

Appointee Name	Appointing Entity	Affiliation / Organization	Appointment Category	Term Expiration
Ginger Ostro	IBHE	Illinois Board of Higher Education	Co-Chair	31-Oct-27
Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler	IBHE	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	31-Oct-27
Francis Godwyll	IBHE	Illinois State University	Other Experts	31-Oct-27
Lisa Downey	IBHE	National Louis University	Private University, College of Education	31-Oct-28
Laurie Elish-Piper	IBHE	Northern Illinois University	Rural Public University, College of Education	31-Oct-27
Joi Patterson	IBHE	Governors State University	Suburban Public University, College of Education	31-Oct-28
Jennifer Buchter	IBHE	Eastern Illinois University	Union Representing Higher Education Faculty	31-Oct-27
Kimberly McClellan	IBHE	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Union Representing Higher Education Faculty	31-Oct-28
Tom Phillion	IBHE	Northeastern Illinois University	Urban Public University, College of Education	31-Oct-26
Adrienne Pickett	ICCB	Illinois Community College Board	Co-Chair	31-Oct-27
Jim Reed	ICCB	Illinois Community College Trustee Association	Organization that Advocates on Behalf of Community College Trustees	31-Oct-28
Ken Trzaska	ICCB	Community College Presidents Council, Lewis & Clark Community College	Other Experts	31-Oct-27
Meredith Palmer	ICCB	Richland College	Rural Community College	31-Oct-28
Tywanda Jiles	ICCB	Prairie State College	Suburban Community College	31-Oct-27
Kate Connor	ICCB	Harry S. Truman College	Urban Community College	31-Oct-28
Edie Washington	IDCFS	Illinois Department of Child & Family Services	Department of Children and Family Services	31-Oct-27
Ann Whalen	IDEC	Illinois Department of Early Childhood	Co-Chair	31-Oct-27
Rochelle Golliday	IDEC	Cuddlee Care	Community-Based Child Care Provider	31-Oct-26
Stephanie Neuman	IDEC	Kountry Kids Learning Center	Employer in Central Illinois	31-Oct-25
Jill Andrews	IDEC	Kiddie Kollege/SIECAT (Southern Illinois Early Childhood Action Team)	Employer in Southern Illinois	31-Oct-26
Vacant	IDEC	INCCRRA	INCCRRA	31-Oct-26
Lauri Morrison-Frichtl	IDEC	Illinois Head Start Association	Other Experts	31-Oct-26
Michael Kim	IDEC	Illinois Action for Children	Statewide Advocate	31-Oct-26
Vacant	IDEC		Statewide Advocate	31-Oct-25
Trish Rooney	IDHS	Illinois Department of Human Services	Co-Chair	31-Oct-27
Martina Rocha	IDHS	Together for Network	Family Child Care Provider	31-Oct-25
Emnet Gebrehiwet Ward	IDHS	Eyes on the Future	For-Profit Child Care Provider	31-Oct-26

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Ashley Harms	IDHS	Amity Child Care Center	Non-Profit Child Care Provider	31-Oct-25
Evelyn Osorio	IDHS	Service Employees International Union	Union Representing Child Care and Early Childhood Providers	31-Oct-26
Joyce Gronewold	ISBE	Illinois State Board of Education	Co-Chair	31-Oct-27
Amanda Christensen	ISBE	Regional Office of Education, DeKalb County, Regional Office of Education 16	Rural School District	31-Oct-26
Susan Orozco	ISBE	East Aurora 131	Suburban District	31-Oct-27
Alicia Geddis	ISBE	Danville School District 118	Urban District	31-Oct-27
Leslie McKinily	ISBE	Chicago Public Schools 299	Chicago Public Schools	31-Oct-26
Vacant	Legislature	House Higher Education Committee	Minority Spokesperson, House Higher Education Committee	31-Oct-27
Vacant	Legislature	Senate Higher Education Committee	Minority Spokesperson, Senate Higher Education Committee	31-Oct-25
Vacant	Legislature	House Higher Education Committee	Chair/Vice-Chair, House Higher Education Committee	31-Oct-26
Vacant	Legislature	Senate Higher Education Committee	Chair/Vice-Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee	31-Oct-27