

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

February 16, 2018

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 40**

**REESTABLISHING THE NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's future prosperity depends upon the success of its young children;  
and

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that investments in high quality early learning and development produce the best outcomes in education, health, and economic well-being, which in turn benefit all North Carolinians, by creating a more skilled workforce, lowering health care costs, and reducing incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, a premiere birth-to-age-eight learning and development system will provide each North Carolina child with a strong foundation for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina can build upon its successful legacy of public and private leadership and innovation to strengthen and sustain a comprehensive, integrated early childhood learning and development system that delivers positive outcomes for young children, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(1)(B) requires an advisory council be established to advise the Governor on early childhood education.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

**Section 1.**      **Establishment and Purpose**

The North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council ("NCECAC") is hereby reestablished, consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(1)(B). The purpose of the NCECAC is to establish a shared early childhood action plan with defined measures of success for young children from birth-to-age-eight. This plan will incorporate benchmarks, strategies, and recommendations from multiple sources, including but not limited to the B-3 Interagency Council, the Child Well-Being Transformation Council, and the NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative.

**Section 2.**      **Membership**

The Governor or the Governor's designee shall chair the NCECAC.

The Governor shall appoint up to twenty-five (25) members to the NCECAC as follows:

- a. The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- b. The State Director of Head Start – State Collaboration Office.
- c. Three (3) members from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") representing child care, NC Pre-K, health, mental health, social services, and the Infant-Toddler Program (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1419, 1431). At least one of these members shall also serve on the B-3 Interagency Council (N.C. Gen. Stat. §

115C-64.25 (2017)) and at least one shall serve on the Child Well-Being Transformation Council (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-775 (2017)).

- d. Two (2) members from state institutions of higher education.
- e. One (1) member from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management.
- f. The President of the North Carolina Partnership for Children.
- g. Two (2) current providers of child care and early childhood education services.
- h. One (1) member from a Head Start agency located in the State, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs.
- i. One (1) member of a local educational agency.
- j. Two (2) current consumers of early childhood services.
- k. One (1) member of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (“DPI”).
- l. Up to nine (9) additional members that may include, but are not limited to, representatives from the private business sector, philanthropic institutions and organizations, early childhood research institutions and organizations, nonprofit agencies providing early childhood services, the faith community, and early childhood policy institutions and organizations.

### **Section 3. Term of Membership**

NCECAC members shall serve two (2) year terms. Members may be re-appointed for additional two-year term(s). Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term(s). Members appointed to fill unexpired terms shall serve for the remainder of their terms.

### **Section 4. Meetings and Public Hearings**

The NCECAC shall meet three (3) times a year and upon the call of the Governor. The Governor or the Governor’s designee shall set the NCECAC’s meeting agendas. A simple majority of the NCECAC’s membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

The NCECAC shall hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment regarding its activities.

### **Section 5. Committees**

The Governor or the Governor’s designee may establish such committees or work groups as are necessary to carry out the NCECAC’s duties.

### **Section 6. Duties**

Subject to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(1)(D), its duties may include the following:

1. Create and guide a bold state early childhood action plan.
  - a. Develop and periodically review progress on a statewide early childhood action plan that outlines major strategies, actions, and positive measurable goals and impacts for North Carolina’s young children and families.
  - b. Coordinate with the B-3 Interagency Council and the Child Well-Being Transformation Council to align activities, priorities, and messaging.
  - c. Provide input on early childhood related state grants, including the Child Care and Development Block Grant.
2. Support aligned activities, evidence-based practices, and innovation.
  - a. Conduct periodic needs assessments on the quality and availability of innovative programs and services for children from birth-to-age-eight and their families.
  - b. Strengthen coordination, collaboration, and innovation among public and private early childhood programs in the State, including family support, health, mental health, and education programs.
  - c. Identify key infrastructure needs or enhancements and recommend policies to promote and sustain collaboration and bring innovative, evidence-based practices to scale.
  - d. In collaboration with the B-3 Interagency Council:
    - i. Recommend strategies to create a talented, well-compensated, stable workforce and high-quality professional development system for early childhood educators and specialists serving young children and their families.
    - ii. Periodically assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in North Carolina that support the development of early childhood educators and specialists.
3. Promote shared measurement and measurement practices.
  - a. Identify prioritized and shared metrics for success for children birth-to-age-eight that are coordinated with the NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative.

- b. Recommend and promote strategies to enhance the State's longitudinal data collection system for early childhood to track progress on selected success measures and enhance quality, accessibility, equity, and accountability of early childhood programs and services.
  - c. Monitor progress toward metrics for success and assess equity of access to needed services to achieve metrics for success using standard geographic and demographic indicators.
  - d. Present an annual written report of progress and recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina State Senate, the Speaker of the North Carolina State House of Representatives, the DHHS Secretary, the DPI Superintendent, and the public.
4. Build public will.
- a. Develop and implement plans to promote the importance of early childhood development and to increase commitment among parents, professionals, businesses, policy makers, and the public at large to ensure that young children in North Carolina, especially at-risk children, are learning and thriving.
5. Advance policy.
- a. Recommend and advocate for policies that improve equitable access to high-quality early childhood services and better outcomes for young children and families.
  - b. Recommend strategies for promoting and maintaining high-quality state early childhood learning standards.
6. Mobilize funding.
- a. Periodically review current and needed funding to ensure sufficient access to high-quality early childhood services statewide.
  - b. Recommend to policy makers funding priorities for a high-quality, efficient, and effective system of services for young children and their families.
  - c. Identify potential funding opportunities and support efforts to secure new funding.

**Section 7. Administration**

The Office of the Governor shall provide necessary administrative and staff support services to the NCECAC. Administrative costs, special function expenses, and NCECAC member per diem, travel, and subsistence costs shall be paid for by DHHS in accordance with state law.

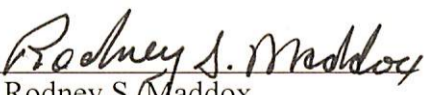
**Section 8. Effect and Duration**

This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until March 31, 2020, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2, or until rescinded, whichever comes first. The duration of the NCECAC may also be extended by future executive order(s). This order supersedes and replaces all other executive orders and directives on this subject.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen.

  
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 Roy Cooper  
 Governor

**ATTEST:**

  
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 Rodney S. Maddox  
 Chief Deputy Secretary of State

