

Interagency Resource Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Monthly Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2026
Office of Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay
Carvel State Building, 11th floor/ Hybrid Meeting
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

IRMC February 23, 2026(Rescheduled to March 5, 2026):

https://zoom.us/rec/share/159LYurYuiOvqYmifzHHVQCUW_gVVTSw6DXav59m5R50NuWwlpMS9BmgTFiFo5hn.LGdfIU43TzRCblRU?startTime=1772721125000

Passcode: Q!q@x624

Committee Members Present:

Lieutenant Governor Kyle Evans Gay, State of Delaware

Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services Lisa Scheiffert, State of Delaware

Department of Services for Children, Youth, & Their Families Secretary Steven Yeatman, State of Delaware

Office of Budget and Management Director Brian Maxwell, State of Delaware

Delaware Early Childhood Council Chair Madeleine Bayard, State of Delaware

Senator Elizabeth Lockman, Delaware State Senate

Representative Kamela Smith, Delaware State House of Representatives

Caitlin Gleason, Department of Education

Controller General Ruth Ann Miller

Facilitator: Emily Adams, Director, Watershed Advisors, Virginia Webb, Analyst

Staff from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor:

- Sarah Stowens, Chief of Staff
- Alexis Wrease, Director of Communications
- Mark Brainard Jr., Director of Policy
- Pelumi Adesina, Office Manager

The Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) held its March meeting to review 2025 accomplishments and discuss plans for 2026, focusing on building an early education system that can scale to meet public needs. The committee, led by Lieutenant Governor Evans Gay, received updates from Madeleine Bayard on DECC strategy and Caitlin Gleason on the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), which secured \$11.3 million in funding for 2026. Key discussions centered around unifying governance and finance, creating a resource and referral system for families, standardizing quality standards, and implementing data visualization tools to track outcomes. The committee established new advisory subcommittees to engage with providers, employers, and legislative stakeholders, while emphasizing the need for clear communication and flexibility in implementing changes. Public comment highlighted concerns from childcare providers about stability and consistency in reforms, with recommendations for increased provider engagement and accountability in decision-making processes.

Overview

IRMC 2026 Early Education Planning

The Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) met to review its 2025 accomplishments and discuss plans for 2026. The committee achieved alignment on a public good statement for early education and clarified key terms, setting a foundation for future work. They successfully applied for a \$11.3 million PDG Birth through 5 grant, which will support the systems building work in 2026. The committee established two new advisory groups: one for legislators, and another for employers. These groups will meet quarterly to provide input on early childhood education initiatives before IRMC meetings. The committee also discussed the need to better integrate higher education institutions into their efforts, particularly regarding workforce development.

Strategic Plan Alignment Discussion

The meeting focused on the Delaware Early Childhood Council's (DECC) strategic plan and its alignment with the 2026-2030 plan. Madeleine discussed the progress made since the first strategic plan in 2008 and highlighted ongoing priorities such as behavioral concerns in classrooms and workforce issues. The group plans to update the strategic plan using input from surveys and workshops, with a draft expected in the coming months. Caitlin emphasized the importance of constant feedback between community voices, agency leadership, and the PDG application process. The conversation ended with a discussion about the need for alignment between DEC's framework and the upcoming strategic plan.

Early Childhood Systems Funding Plan

The meeting focused on a \$11.3 million federal funding opportunity for systems-building in early childhood education, with the Lieutenant Governor emphasizing the importance of coherent governance, funding alignment, quality, and data. Caitlin Gleason, Associate Secretary

for Early Childhood Excellence, outlined a four-level approach to improve early childhood services: systems level, family level, professional level, and program level. The discussion highlighted plans to streamline services, improve data visualization, and engage with families and professionals to design a more efficient and effective early childhood system in Delaware.

Delaware Early Childhood Education Planning

The meeting focused on decision-making and planning for early childhood education and care in Delaware. Participants discussed flexibility in program design, including rate adjustments and local-based approaches, while considering the broader context of family experiences and interagency coordination.

Next Steps

The group reviewed progress on the \$11.3 million Crystal Development Grant and outlined next steps, including upcoming meetings and the engagement of external partners for implementation. Public comments highlighted the importance of clear communication, provider engagement, and the need for stable systems, with suggestions for enhancing decision-making processes.

Public Comment

Jamie Schneider

Adjournment: Lt. Governor Gay thanked all in person and virtual attendees for attending the Interagency Resource Management Committee meeting and shares the date and time for the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th.