

RSU 5 Early Childhood Education Task Force – Meeting #1 Agenda

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Morse Street School

Meeting Goals

- Build a shared understanding of the state’s early childhood education mandate and our district’s responsibilities.
 - Take stock of current district and community resources.
 - Identify key areas of concern and opportunity.
 - Clarify next steps, including opportunities to join state cohorts for early implementation.
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Agenda

5:30 – 5:40 | Welcome and Introductions

- Superintendent’s opening remarks and purpose of the Task Force.
- Roundtable introductions (name, role, and connection to early childhood education).
- Overview of meeting norms and collaboration expectations;
 - **1. Stay Student-Centered**
Keep our focus on what will best serve children and families — especially our youngest learners — as we explore options for the district’s future responsibilities.
 - **2. Honor All Perspectives**
We come from different roles and experiences. Listen with curiosity and respect; seek to understand before seeking to be understood.
 - **3. Assume Positive Intent**
Everyone in the room is here because they care about children and want to do what’s right. Approach differences in opinion with generosity.
 - **4. Speak from Experience, Listen for Understanding**
Use “I” statements to share your perspective. When others speak, listen to understand, not to reply.

- **5. Be Present and Engaged**
Limit side conversations, multitasking, and phone use. We have important work to do in a short time.
- **6. Keep It Constructive and Solution-Oriented**
Our charge is to identify possibilities and options — not to assign blame. Let's focus on what we *can* do and what's within our control.
- **7. Be Mindful of Time and Space**
Help ensure everyone's voice is heard by being concise when speaking and inviting quieter voices in.
- **8. Transparency and Trust**
We will share information openly and ensure that processes are clear to all. What we learn together will be communicated accurately and respectfully.
- **9. One Conversation at a Time**
Respect the facilitator and each other by allowing one person to speak at a time.
- **10. End with Commitment to the Work**
Leave each meeting with a shared understanding of next steps and a spirit of collaboration as we move toward our common goal.

5:40 – 6:10 | Understanding the Mandate

- [Presentation](#): State requirements for providing FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) for children ages 3–5 by July 1, 2028.
- Overview of **Cohort 3 and Cohort 4 options**:
 - *Cohort 3*: begins FY26, districts assume responsibility for 4-year-olds.
 - *Cohort 4*: begins FY27, districts assume responsibility for both 3- and 4-year-olds.
 - Funding opportunities and considerations for each.
- Brief Q&A.

6:10 – 6:40 | Taking Stock of What We Have

- Group discussion: Inventory of current resources and strengths in the district and community.
 - Pre-K programs (half-day, staffing, facilities).
 - Community child care and early learning providers.

- Partnerships and service delivery models.
- Recorder captures shared assets and gaps on a visual chart or whiteboard.

6:40 – 7:10 | Identifying Primary Areas of Concern

- Small group discussion (mixed stakeholder tables):
 - What are your biggest questions or concerns about meeting this new responsibility?
 - What opportunities do you see to build on existing strengths?
- Large group debrief: share out themes.
- Begin to identify areas for deeper exploration in future meetings.

7:10 – 7:25 | Looking Ahead: Framing the Work of the Task Force

- Overview of the four-meeting timeline and expected outcomes:
 - Meeting 1 – Understanding the landscape
 - Meeting 2 – Exploring models and scenarios
 - Meeting 3 – Evaluating feasibility and costs
 - Meeting 4 – Developing the menu of options for the Board
- Confirm next meeting date and pre-reading materials.

7:25 – 7:30 | Closing Reflections

- Quick round: one takeaway or hope for the work ahead.
- Thank you and adjourn.