

RSU 5 Early Childhood Education Task Force – Meeting #2 Agenda

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Pownal Elementary School

1. Welcome and Opening (5:30–5:35)

2. Brief Review of State Mandate and Meeting Objectives (5:35–5:40)

- Reiterate mandate to serve children ages 3–5 by July 2028
- Clarify today's objective: **move from information to initial model exploration**

3. Focused Scope: What We Are and Are Not Deciding Tonight (5:40–5:50)

- Tonight's focus is **Cohort 3 (four-year-olds)** for the **2026–2027** school year
- Explicitly **remove full-day programming questions** from the discussion
- Do **not** include three-year-olds or Child Find evaluation costs in this phase

Outcome: The team can concentrate deeply on one decision, not the entire mandate.

4. Understanding “Cohort 3” (5:50–6:20)

Goal: Establish a shared understanding of the benefits and challenges of potentially joining Cohort 3–assuming responsibility for 4 year olds in the 2026-2027 school year.

- Review of what we will be taking on if we join Cohort 3
- Overview of the state's support
- Discussion of potential challenges we would face if we take this option

Outcome: Consideration of the pros and cons of joining Cohort 3

5. Longer-Term Budget and Funding Context (6:20–6:25)

- How allocation funding works
- Connection between **child count** and state funding
- Clarify that increased Child Count increases possible funding
- Review projected enrollment numbers for four-year-olds (enrolled and unenrolled)

Outcome: Shared financial foundation before exploring models.

6. Exploring Service Models for Four-Year-Olds (6:25–7:15)

With our current Early Intervention Team (EIT) as the starting point.

Small-group discussion of scenarios:

- Maintain current scope (EIT continues serving enrolled students only, with wraparound model)
- Shift scope to include **unenrolled** four-year-olds– how would we do this, what would have to change

Guiding questions:

- What support can we reasonably provide with EIT as currently structured?
- Where are the gaps?
- What might partnerships help solve?

7. Consideration of Next Steps (7:15–7:25)

- Preview Meeting #3 focus (narrowing to 2–3 best models and discussing feasibility)

8. Closing (7:25–7:30)

- One sentence: What do you now understand more clearly than you did at 5:30?