



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

Indiana Government Center
Indianapolis, IN

April 9, 2026
10:00 AM

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of February Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Chair's Report
- V. Discussion
 - I. OECOSL Updates
 - II. Rule Making
 - III. AYS Out of School Programs and Dashboard
 - IV. Collaboration Grant
 - V. Meeting Locations
- VI. Adjourn



Approval of February Minutes

Public Comment

Chair's Report

Sam Snideman

ELAC Chair



Action Items

- ELAC Bylaws
- Vice Chair Election



**Office of Early
Childhood and Out-
of-School Learning**

OECOSL Updates



Passed Legislation

- SEA 4 — Adam Alson
- HEA 1177 — Camille Blunt



**Office of Early
Childhood and Out-
of-School Learning**

OECOSL Central and Regional Eligibility Offices RFP

Lisa Mettler



Strengthening How OECOSL Serves Families and Providers

Why this matters:

- Opportunity to strengthen consistency
- Improve access for families
- Increase accountability and accessibility across the system



A Stronger Statewide Model with Local Presence

- Greater consistency across the state
- Stronger regional footprint
- Better connections to communities



Rule Making



Overview of Rule Making Process

Amanda DeRoss,

Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Family and Social Service Administration



What is an administrative rule?

- An agency statement that applies to classes of individuals and situations that are regulated by the agency
- Have the force and effect of law
- Used to implement, interpret, or clarify law or policy
- A rule must:
 - Be statutorily authorized;
 - Have ascertainable standards; and
 - Be promulgated properly
- Published in the Indiana Administrative Code
 - <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/>



Standards for rules

To the extent possible, rules must:

- Minimize expenses to regulated entities;
- Achieve the regulatory goal in the least restrictive manner;
- Avoid duplicating standards found in state or federal laws;
- Be written for ease of comprehension; and
- Have practicable enforcement.



Initiating Rulemaking

Documents to be drafted:

- Annotated draft of the proposed rule
- Regulatory Analysis
- Family Impact Statement and Certification



Regulatory Analysis

- The agency must conduct a regulatory analysis and answer specific questions regarding the regulations and their fiscal impact.
- This document is publicly posted on the Indiana Register later in the process.



Fees, fines, or civil penalties

- If a rule contains a fee, fine, or civil penalty, additional statutory requirements apply.
- Additionally, the rule must be presented to (and essentially approved by) the State Budget Committee.
- All fines and civil penalties must be posted on the agency website as well.



Rule Promulgation Process Overview

Governed by IC 4-22-2

1. Internal agency approval
2. OMB/SBA approval
3. Family Impact approval
4. Publication of Notice of Public Comment Period
5. Notice of Public Hearing
6. Public hearing
7. Review and respond to public comments
8. Potential Second Public Comment Period
9. Agency final adoption
10. Attorney General approval
11. Governor's approval
12. File with publisher
13. Rule becomes effective



Internal Agency Approval

Includes:

- Office of General Counsel
- Chief Financial Officer
- Secretary



OMB/SBA Approval

- Submit all docs to Office of Management and Budget and State Budget Agency.
- Work with OMB and SBA to address any questions or concerns about the drafted language and the accompanying fiscal information.

Family Impact Approval



- Submit Family Impact Statement and Certification to OMB for approval.
- Executive Order 13-05 requires OMB or their designee to approve of rules that may impact families – including all of FSSA's.



Publication of Notice of Public Comment Period

- Filed after receiving OMB/SBA approval letter.
- Posts to the Indiana Register and gives the public at least 30 days to review and comment on a proposed rule.
- Must include an overview of the intent and scope of the proposed rule and the statutory authority for the rule.
- This is the first “official” step of the rule promulgation process.

Notice of Public Hearing



- Notice of Public Hearing to be published by the Indiana Register along with Notice of Public Comment Period.
- Must be posted at least 30 days prior to the public hearing.

Public Hearing



- After notices and required texts are posted on the Indiana Register, a public hearing must be held after at least 30 days.
- Hearings are required to have a remote attendance option and be webcast and archived on the FSSA webpage.

Review and Respond to Public Comments



- After the public hearing, all public comments received are reviewed, summarized, and responses are drafted.
- Changes to the rule language can be made at this point, so long as they are a logical outgrowth of the comments received.



Potential Second Public Comment Period

- If substantive comments are received, we are required to hold a second public comment period.
- This entails publishing a second notice of public comment period, a second notice of public hearing, and holding a second public hearing. Then reading, summarizing, and responding to comments received, and potentially making changes to the rule as a logical outgrowth of the comments.
- Also requires OMB/SBA approval again.

Agency Final Adoption



- A binder is created to show all steps of the rule promulgation process were followed.
- This is submitted to the FSSA Secretary, who reviews and then officially adopts the rule.

Attorney General Approval



- Once FSSA Secretary adopts, the binder is submitted to the AG's office.
- Attorney General has 45 days to review and approve.
- Review is for form and legality.
- Can only disapprove for cause.



Governor's Approval

- After AG's office approves, they submit the binder to the Gov's office.
- Governor has 15 days to review (but can extend for an additional 15 days, if notice is provided).
- Governor may disapprove with or without cause.



File with Publisher

- After the Gov's Office approves, they submit the binder to the Indiana Register.
- IR reviews for acceptable form, makes final corrections to the text.



Rule Becomes Effective

- Rules are generally effective 30 days after filing with the publisher, although a different effective date may be stated in the rule.



Overall compliance, timeline

- Many “behind the scenes” rulemaking pieces to comply with.
- Difficult to give an estimated timeline of rulemaking process, since there are so many variables. We need OMB approval for the current child care rule amendments by May 1 in order to ensure we meet all deadlines throughout the year in order to get these rules through before they expire on January 1, 2027.

Questions?

Amanda DeRoss

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Overview of Impact from Other Agency Rules

Tikila Welch, OECOSL



Impact from Other Agencies

While the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) leads child care licensing, several other state departments also contribute important expertise and oversight.



Agencies and Involvement with Child Care Licensing

- **Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)**
 - Provides guidance for early childhood programs connected to schools
- **Department of Fire and Building Services (DFBS)**
 - Reviews building plans and ensures facilities meet fire and building codes
- **Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)**
 - Oversees health and sanitation requirements for child care environments

Agencies and Involvement with Child Care Licensing



- **Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)—Fire & Building Safety Division**
 - Involved in fire safety approval, especially for child care ministries
- **Division of Family Resources, FSSA (DFR)**
 - Maintains regulatory code and supports licensing requirements
- **Indiana State Police (ISP)**
 - Oversees the laws and rules pertaining to vehicle safety, such as the centers' special purpose bus inspections



Agencies and Involvement with Child Care Licensing

- **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)**
 - Oversees well water testing, sewer, septic, and drinking water
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission**
 - We use their Handbook for Public Playground Safety to monitor center playgrounds



AYS Out-of-School Programs and Dashboard

Justin Armstrong, *AYS*



AYS FY27 PRICING STRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY



AT YOUR SCHOOL (AYS) HISTORY



SCHOOL BASED PROVIDER

School Age Out of School Time (OST)

- Serving Pre-K through 8th Grade
- Trending Up: Pre-K through 3rd and 6th - 7th
- Trending Down: 4th and 5th , CCDF Voucher
- Quarterly Survey: Parent and School Admin Needs and Obstacles
- Environment and Focus: Core Values
- Response to public commentary of need





FY26

By The Numbers

- Total Enrollment
- Current Pricing
- CCDF Enrollment
 - Trends
- AYS Voucher Management
 - Fall Semester
 - Spring Semester
- Projected Operating Margins
 - Variables
- National Average
 - Wallace Foundation
- Central Indiana Average OST Price



FY27 PRICING

New Structure and Increase Options

- First price increase in 3 years
 - Elimination of all discounts
 - Reduced/Eliminated Partner Fees
 - Everyone puts skin in the game
- Front End Sliding Fee Scale
 - Insure Middle Class Affordability
- Day Rate
 - Split week care
- HSS advised 7% of household income cap
 - Multi child supports
- Hardship Support through referral
- Increased Philanthropic and Corporate Supports





STATE SUPPORT

OECOSL AND LEGISLATIVE

- SMARTER REGULATION AND LICENSING
- EFFICIENCY AND FUNDING
- DIRECT PROVIDER INPUT AND PARTNERSHIP
 - *TIP OF THE HAT TO ADAM: REDUCED MAIL!*



A photograph of three diverse children sitting together and smiling. On the left is a young girl with braided hair wearing a pink shirt. In the middle is a girl with long blonde hair wearing a white shirt. On the right is a boy with curly hair wearing a yellow shirt. In the foreground, a colorful rainbow toy is visible. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

THANK YOU

JUSTIN ARMSTRONG
CEO

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Adjourn

Information regarding today's meeting, including slides and materials, can be found at

<https://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/advisory-groups/early-learning-advisory-committee/elac-committee-meetings/>

Next Business Meeting:

- **Date:** June 4, 2026
- **Location:** Conference Room 4 & 5 –Wabash Hall



Thank you