



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2020-03

**An order establishing the Council for Thriving Children as
New Hampshire's Early Childhood Council**

WHEREAS, fostering the health and intellectual well-being of New Hampshire's children strengthens the foundation for competent adulthood, responsible citizenship, economic productivity, strong communities and a prosperous New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire families and caregivers have incredible capacity to meet the health, social, and educational needs of our children and this ability can be strengthened, encouraged, and empowered for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS, grandparents and caregivers must be effectively supported as they play a most essential role in providing safe and nurturing environments so our children can live, grow, learn, play and thrive; and

WHEREAS, equitably supporting all families and children, particularly for our at risk families and children, will help ensure that the next generation of New Hampshire citizens are prepared to meet the demands and future needs of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire has an incredible opportunity to strategically strengthen the health and educational supports for children and families across all environments, including home, childcare, school, and community-based settings; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134 (the "Act"), requires establishment of a state advisory council on early childhood education and care to carry out the duties as enumerated in the Act;

NOW THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order that:

1. There is established a Council for Thriving Children, (“the Council”), which shall constitute the State’s advisory council on early childhood care and education and be led by the Departments of Health & Human Services and Education.
2. That the Council shall fulfill all obligations enumerated in Section 642B(b)(1)(A) of the Act.
3. That the Council shall advise, make recommendations and undertake the following:
 - a. Strengthen New Hampshire’s early childhood infrastructure in all environments, including, home, childcare, schools and community settings.
 - b. Build the capacity of families, professional and non-professional caregivers and educators throughout the state to meet the important health and educational needs of our children
 - c. Ensure an integrated and coordinated early childhood governance structure across state government and connected to local communities by ensuring ongoing needs assessment and strategic planning
 - d. Enhance the interoperability of data systems within and across government agencies to inform and monitor program and service access, equity, and quality
 - e. Promote parent knowledge and choice through sustained family and community engagement, support, resources and feedback
 - f. Ensure the sharing of best practice by establishing and sustaining a Center for Excellence and local/regional forums that support parents, professional caregivers, educators, and community members
 - g. Expand access and equity, and improve transitions for children and their families across the span of early childhood supports, services, and educational environments.
4. That the members of the Council shall include the following members to be appointed by the Governor, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor:
 - a. Two parents, grandparents, relatives or other alternative caregivers who have young children birth to eight
 - b. Commissioners, or designees, of the New Hampshire Departments of:
 1. Department of Health & Human Services
 2. Department of Education
 3. Department of Safety
 4. Department of Transportation
 5. Department Cultural Resources
 6. Department of Business & Economic Affairs
 7. Department of Agriculture
 8. Department of Corrections
 9. Department of Employment Security
 10. Judicial Branch – Administrative Office of the Courts - Family
 11. New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority
 - c. The State Director of Head Start Collaboration

- d. A representative of a Head Start agency recommended by NH Head Start Directors Association
- e. Designated leads of the ECCE Governance structure including the DHHS and DOE Early Childhood Integration Teams, the B-8 ECCE Advisors, and Early Childhood Care & Education Experts
- f. A representative of a local educational agency
- g. A representative of the DOE responsible for programs under section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act recommended by the DOE.
- h. A representative of higher education institutions
- i. A representative of local providers of early childhood education and developmental services
- j. A pediatrician recommended by the New Hampshire Pediatric Society
- k. A representative of the faith based community
- l. A representative of the philanthropic community with expertise in early childhood care and education
- m. A representative of the business community with an interest in early childhood care and education
- n. Three legislators, one appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one by the Speaker of the House
- o. Any other individual or representative of an organization or entity that the Governor deems appropriate to support the work of the Council

5. The members of the Council shall hold an organizational meeting prior to March 30, 2020, and shall meet no less than quarterly thereafter.

6. A majority of appointed Council members shall constitute a quorum and all official actions of the Council shall require a majority vote of those present and voting.

7. The Council shall be allowed to accept grants and other assistance to support its work upon the approval of the Governor and Executive Council. Any such items shall be brought forward by the Department of Health and Human Services or Department of Education on behalf of the Council.

8. The Council shall submit annually by October 1, beginning in 2020, a report to the Governor on its activities, recommendations, and plans.

9. The Departments of Health and Human Services and Education shall each form and maintain an Early Childhood Integration Team by March 30, 2020, to ensure open and comprehensive communication, integration, and coordination with and between agencies as their work relates to early childhood care and education. Further, the Departments will seek to establish a joint Office of Early Childhood Care and Education that further enables coordination within and across the state early childhood care and education system into local communities.

10. The members of the Council may, as it deems appropriate, request assistance from the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education Early Childhood Integration Teams or any for the purpose of examining specific topics within the Council's charge.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this twenty third day of January, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-three.



GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE