



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver's Early Childhood Council  
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### **Denver's Early Childhood Council announces Melissa Janiszewski as Incoming Chief Executive Officer**

**Denver, CO September 29, 2025** – Denver's Early Childhood Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Janiszewski as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer. Melissa is a seasoned public sector leader with more than 20 years of experience advancing public health, social services, operations, and community economic development across the U.S. and internationally. She brings deep expertise in health systems, policy, and organizational operations, and has led initiatives that improve outcomes for children, families, and historically underinvested communities. Melissa has worked alongside government agencies, philanthropy, and nonprofits to design and implement strategies that address systemic inequities while building long-term, community-centered impact.



Her commitment to public service is reflected in her leadership at Denver's Office of Children's Affairs (OCA), where she served as both Executive Director, a mayoral-appointed role, and Deputy Executive Director. During her tenure, she established four new departments dedicated to youth violence prevention, youth mental health, maternal and child health, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) care.

Melissa's leadership is rooted in equity and strengthened by decades of cross-sector collaboration. Known for her ability to navigate complexity, align diverse stakeholders, and drive measurable results, she has managed multi-million-dollar budgets, implemented operational improvements, and stewarded public resources with transparency and accountability. Her work reflects a consistent commitment to advancing equity, fostering trust, and ensuring that investments deliver meaningful, lasting impact.

"Melissa's deep experience and unwavering commitment to equity make her the ideal leader for Denver's Early Childhood Council at this pivotal time. Her ability to build strong partnerships and drive measurable results will help ensure every young child and family in Denver can thrive," said Taran Schneider, Board Chair and Executive Director of Healthy Child Care Colorado.

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Melissa holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of Denver, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Metropolitan State University of Denver.

She currently serves on the Denver Great Kids HeadStart Policy Council.

### **About Denver's Early Childhood Council**

**Mission** - Denver's Early Childhood Council elevates the early childhood field through innovative and inclusive leadership, services, and solutions.

**Vision** - Denver is a community where the diverse needs of all young children and their families are supported.

**History** - Denver's Early Childhood Council or "Joint Council" was created by Denver Public Schools Superintendent Evie Dennis and Mayor Wellington Webb in 1992 to address a systemic need to coordinate and manage quality improvements in Denver's early childhood education (ECE) centers. Since that time, the Council's role in coordinating early childhood services and partners has grown, and today is inclusive of three early childhood domains: Learning and Development, Health and Well-Being, and Family Support and Education.

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