



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®

Illinois Professional Development System

Professional Development Advisory Council Meeting

January 21, 2026

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Vision: We envision an inclusive and efficient system of preparation and training of early care and education, school-age, and youth development professionals who nurture, engage, and serve the needs of children and youth in partnership with their families and communities.

Mission: To promote, support, and recognize engaging professional preparation and training opportunities for all current and future early care and education, school-age, and youth development practitioners.

Values: We believe in an engaging, inclusive, and efficient professional development system serving practitioners in all settings.

Engaging: Respects and cultivates education, training, and experience, recognizes, and equitably compensates achievements based on levels of competence.

Inclusive: Has diverse representation of culture, linguistics, ability, ethnicity, gender, age, and geography; supports inclusive, high-quality, culturally responsive, care and education for all children, youth, and families in all settings.

Efficient: Is accessible, affordable, and diverse in opportunities; develops and expands core knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

1. Welcome
 - Welcome to the first PDAC meeting of 2026!
 - Tri-Chairs: Johnna Darragh, Marcy Mendenhall, and Shauna Ejuh
 - Today's agenda
2. Connection and Context
 - The goals, connection to values
3. Structure of our work
 - Tri-chairs and Committee Co-chairs
 - Working Group focus
 - Approach and Timeline
4. Systems Overview
5. Ground rules for group work
6. Breakout groups
7. Next steps
8. Reflections
9. Adjournment

