

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
GOVERNOR



**KARYN POLITO**  
LT. GOVERNOR

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## **Governor Baker Appoints Nonie Lesaux as Chair of Board of Early Education and Care**

**BOSTON** – Governor Charlie Baker today announced the appointment of Nonie Lesaux, Ph.D., to the Board of Early Education and Care, and designated her as the new Chair.

“I’m pleased to welcome Nonie as chair of the Board of Early Education and Care,” **said Governor Baker**. “With years of experience in the education field, Nonie has risen as a leader for early education and literacy reforms in the Commonwealth and brings a unique skill set to the table that will strengthen programs and enrich education for young children.”

“Nonie’s expertise in language and literacy development, knowledge of early educator practice, and experience working with policymakers will be a significant asset to the Board of Early Education and Care,” **said Early Education and Care Commissioner Tom Weber**. “I look forward to working with Nonie and the Board in advancing the system of early education and care in the Commonwealth, and supporting strong outcomes for all children.”

“It is an honor to serve as the Chair of the Board of Early Education and Care. I look forward to working with the board, Commissioner Tom Weber, and the EEC team to further the mission of providing children with the foundation for healthy development and educational accomplishment,” **said Chair Lesaux**. “I thank the Baker-Polito Administration for this opportunity to support our Commonwealth’s

children, their families, and all those involved in setting the youngest members of our communities on a path toward lifelong success.”

“Nonie’s insight and analytical expertise will be an asset to the Board and Commissioner Weber as we strive to improve the quality, affordability, and availability of early education and care in Massachusetts,” **said Secretary of Education Jim Peyser.** “I also thank Jay Gonzalez for his service to the board and appreciate his support of early education in our state.”

### **About Nonie Lesaux:**

**Nonie K. Lesaux** is the Juliana W. and William Foss Thompson Professor of Education and Society, Harvard Graduate School of Education. She leads a research program that focuses on promoting the language and literacy skills of today’s children and youth from diverse linguistic, cultural and economic backgrounds. In addition to numerous articles and books for scholars and practitioners, she is the author of a widely circulated report, “Turning the Page: Refocusing Massachusetts for Reading Success,” that forms the basis for a Third Grade Reading Proficiency bill passed in Massachusetts. Lesaux has served on a number of federal committees, including the National Literacy Panel on Language Minority Children and Youth, and the National Research Council’s Committee on the Science of Children Birth to Age 8. She is a 2007 recipient of the William T. Grant Scholars Award and a 2008 winner of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor given by the United States government to young professionals beginning their independent research careers. A native of Canada, Lesaux earned her doctorate in educational psychology and special education from the University of British Columbia. She resides in Cambridge, MA, with her husband and two young children.

### **About the Board of Early Education and Care:**

**The Board of Early Education and Care** oversees the administration of early education and care and out-of-school time programs in Massachusetts. Under the Board's oversight and regulations, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) licenses child care programs, residential programs, and adoption/foster care placement agencies; provides financial assistance for over 56,000 children to attend high-quality programs that support their growth, development and learning; and provides information and referral services, inclusive programming for children with special needs, parenting and family support, and professional development opportunities for early educators. The Board of Early Education and Care's mission is to provide a system of early education and care and out-of-school time in Massachusetts that provides all children with the necessary foundation for healthy

and positive educational development and lifelong success.

For more information on the Board of Early Education and Care, please visit: <http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care/>.

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