

2025 Fall Meeting of the SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Hyatt Centric Midtown Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia

September 26–28

Agenda

Friday, September 26

1-4:30 p.m. Special briefing by staff of the Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Hear their research on employment policies and labor market issues that affect low- and moderate-income individuals and discuss how state policymakers can help create economic opportunities through education and employment.

Meet in the hotel lobby at 1 p.m. to walk to the Federal Reserve and go through security.

*6 p.m. Reception and Dinner
The Strip*

Saturday, September 27

*7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast
The Strip*

All program sessions are in **Blooming Hill I**

*8:30-8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
Dale Winker, Interim President, SREB
Lee Posey, Vice President, State Strategies, Policy, Research and Evaluation, SREB*

*8:45-9 a.m. 10 Years Later: SREB's Early Childhood Commission
Moderating
Lee Posey, SREB*

- 9 a.m.-12 p.m. *General Sessions*
Presiding
*Senator Beth Mizell, Louisiana, Chair, SREB Legislative
Advisory Council*
- 9-10:15 a.m. Virginia: Resource Building for Access and Affordability
Virginia has seen gains in its early care and education system through investments in increased access for eligible children, affordability for families, the early educator workforce, classroom quality, data systems and accountability, and innovative solutions to regional challenges in building the supply of high-quality early education services. Learn how Virginia uses public-private partnerships with a focus on regional structures and supports.
Delegate Mike Cherry, Virginia
Emily Anne Gullickson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. *Midmorning Break*
- 10:30-11:45 a.m. North Carolina: Focus on Child Care and Economic Development
This presentation will review recent efforts in North Carolina to ensure greater access to child care, including the work of the recently established North Carolina Task Force on Child Care and Early Education, the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Child Care Business Liaison role, and initiatives led by state agencies and strategic partners.
Samantha Cole, Child Care Liaison, North Carolina Department of Commerce
- 11:45 a.m.- 12 p.m. Table Discussions
- 12-1 p.m. *Lunch*
The Strip

1-4 p.m.

General Sessions

1-2:15 p.m.

Georgia: An Early Education System

Hear an overview of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's programs, how the agency has changed in its 21 years and how research has informed DECAL's policy and programmatic decisions, including an ongoing economic impact study. We will discuss the pros and cons of an agency focused on programs and policies for children age zero to five.

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner, Quality, Innovation and Partnerships, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

2:15-2:30 p.m.

Mid-Afternoon Break

2:30-3:45 p.m.

Louisiana: Brains, Budgets and Big Returns — Financing Early Childhood Education

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children is an independent nonpartisan source of data, research and information on issues related to Louisiana children from birth through age four. Join our discussion about early care and education, why it costs what it does, its benefits and its importance.

Libbie Sonnier, Chief Executive Officer, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

3:45- 4 p.m.

Table Discussions

Saturday dinner on your own. Enjoy Midtown Atlanta!

Sunday, September 28

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

The Strip

8:30-11:30 a.m.

General Sessions

Presiding

Senator Beth Mizell, Louisiana, Chair, SREB Legislative Advisory Council

8:30-9 a.m.

SREB Services to States

Lee Posey, SREB

Joe Tadlock, Senior Research Associate, SREB

- 9-10 a.m. State Roundtable on Upcoming Issues
Attendees will share the issues on the top of the education agenda in their 2025 legislative sessions.
- 10-10:15 a.m. *Midmorning Break — Hotel Checkout*
- 10:15-11:30 a.m. How Policymakers Can Support Teachers in the Ethical and Effective Use of AI in the Classroom
SREB's *Guidance for the Use of AI in the K-12 Classroom* promotes thoughtful and responsible adoption of artificial intelligence in the classroom, ensuring that it enhances, rather than distracts from, schools' core mission of fostering academic success. How can policymakers use the report's Pillars of AI Use to ensure that AI is used in a thoughtful way and as an additive to, not a substitute for, teacher knowledge?
Jason Adair, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, SREB
Leslie Eaves, Program Director, Project-Based Learning, SREB
- 11:30 a.m. *Meeting Adjournment*
Lunch Available
The Strip