



First 5 LA/LAUP Universal Preschool Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

What is the purpose of the First 5 LA/LAUP Research Advisory Committee?

This First 5 LA/LAUP Research Advisory Committee (RAC) provides technical input, ideas and advice to First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) on early childhood research issues relevant to the universal preschool initiative in Los Angeles County. Through an iterative process, input from the Research Advisory Committee will be incorporated by First 5 LA and LAUP into an overall long-term research and evaluation plan that will provide a framework for measuring LAUP's program implementation, effectiveness and impact. The locally and nationally recognized early childhood experts that make up the Research Advisory Committee not only bring critical technical expertise to this task, but also bring national visibility to LAUP as a model for other universal preschool programs across the country.

Who is on the Research Advisory Committee?

The Research Advisory Committee is comprised of 20 individuals representing a varied depth and breadth of early childhood research and related expertise and experience, including a balance of local and national representatives. A number of members have technical expertise regarding many of the most significant state and national preschool evaluation efforts. For example, the Research Advisory Committee includes researchers who have worked on many of the major preschool and early childhood intervention studies such as the Georgia Universal Pre-K Evaluation, the Chicago Longitudinal Study, the Early Head Start Evaluation, the Multi-state Pre-kindergarten Evaluation, and the NICHD Child Care Study, among others.

What are the important sectors of early childhood research or related expertise that are represented by the members of the Research Advisory Committee?

The following list illustrates some of the types of early childhood research and related expertise that are represented by the members of the Research Advisory Committee.

- Early Intervention/ Early Education
- Child Care Quality
- Language & Literacy Development
- Bilingual/Multicultural Issues & Assessments
- Assessment of Preschool-Age Children
- Workforce Development (Early Childhood)
- Professional Development and Compensation
- Service Delivery / Community Context
- Methodology / Statistics
- Social/Emotional Development
- Health
- Early Childhood Curriculum and Articulation with Elementary School
- Local Research / Data Expertise
- Demographics
- Local Service / Policy Context Expertise
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs

Who will chair the Research Advisory Committee?

To lead this group, First 5 LA and LAUP selected two of the Research Advisory Committee members, Dr. Linda Espinosa and Dr. Gary Henry, to serve as co-chairs. Dr. Espinosa is a professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has worked extensively with low-income Hispanic/Latino children and families throughout California, both as a practitioner and a researcher. Dr. Gary Henry is a leading scholar in educational policy and evaluation and is the William Neil Reynolds Distinguished Visiting Professor at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Education. Dr. Henry has evaluated a variety of policies and programs, including Georgia's Universal Pre-K, public information campaigns and the HOPE Scholarship as well as school reforms and accountability systems.

How were the members of the Research Advisory Committee selected?

In June 2005, First 5 LA and LAUP widely disseminated a request for nominations to identify qualified candidates for the Research Advisory Committee. We were very pleased with the response, receiving nearly 60 nominations from across the country. A joint committee of staff from First 5 LA and LAUP, as well as First 5 LA’s research consultant, Dr. Michael López, reviewed the nominations and selected a group of 20 individuals representing a varied depth and breadth of early childhood research and related expertise and experience, including a balance of local and national representatives.

How often will the Research Advisory Committee meet?

The Research Advisory Committee will meet up to two to three times per year for day-long meetings, with the possibility of additional conference calls for topical workgroup conference calls. The first meeting of the Committee was in March 2006, the second meeting was in December 2006 and the third meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2007.

How does the Research Advisory Committee operate?

The Research Advisory Committee helps address specific LAUP research and evaluation challenges and provides input and makes appropriate recommendations to First 5 LA and LAUP, particularly around anticipated methodology and measurement challenges, research to practice, research to policy strategies, and dissemination approaches for findings as they emerge. Technical and logistical support for the meetings will be provided by staff from First 5 LA, in collaboration with LAUP staff and First 5 LA’s research consultant, Michael L. López.

In addition to the in-person meetings of the full RAC, there are three topical workgroups: (1) Design, Analysis, and Methodology Workgroup, (2) Child Outcomes Workgroup, and (3) Administrative Data Workgroup. The workgroups have met in break-out sessions as a part of the full-day RAC meetings as well as via conference calls between meetings. The workgroup members have been instrumental in providing valuable input to the design and approach of the Child Outcomes Pilot Study being conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) in collaboration with American Institutes for Research (AIR), Berkeley Evaluation and Assessment Research (BEAR), Juárez and Associates, Inc., and Deanna Gomby Consulting.

How is the work of the Research Advisory Committee used?

As noted earlier, input from the Research Advisory Committee is incorporated by First 5 LA, LAUP, and First 5 LA’s research consultant, Michael L. López, into an overall long-term research and evaluation plan that will provide a framework for measuring LAUP’s program effectiveness and impact. The work of the Research Advisory Committee will also be used to help bring national visibility to LAUP as a model for other universal preschool programs across the country. First 5 LA’s Research and Evaluation Department, in collaboration with staff from LAUP and First 5 LA’s research consultant, will provide oversight for the overall research planning process and implementation of the subsequent research and evaluation activities.

How do I get more information?

<p>For more information about the RAC:</p> <p>Katie Fallin First 5 LA Research and Evaluation Department 213-482-9489 E-mail: KFallin@first5la.org Web: www.first5la.org</p>	<p>For more information about First 5 LA:</p> <p>Carol Baker First 5 LA Public Affairs 213-482-9388 E-mail: CBaker@first5la.org Web: www.first5la.org</p>	<p>For more information about LAUP:</p> <p>LAUP Communications Department Los Angeles Universal Preschool 213-416-1200 E-mail: info@laup.net Web: www.laup.net;</p>
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