



Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children

The Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, PennAEYC, the affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jen DeBell as Executive Director.

Jen comes to the position with almost 20 years of experience in public policy and government relations advocating for children and families through roles in Pennsylvania state government and non-profit organizations.

Prior to joining PennAEYC in October 2017, Jen was the Policy Director for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, serving as the primary advisor on policy issues and strategic planning in the department, consistent with the goals of Governor Wolf. Jen worked for Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), a non-profit, non-partisan children's advocacy organization prior to her work in the Wolf Administration. She began as Government Relations Director, was promoted to Vice President of Public Policy and focused her work on children's health care and early care and education policy and government relations. Before joining PPC, Jen was the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning where she served as a key advisor on early care and education legislation, regulations and policies. During Governor Rendell's Administration, Jen worked in the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's (now DHS) Office of Legislative Affairs, where she was promoted from Legislative Specialist to Director. Jen began her career as a Legislative Assistant to then State Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz.

For the past two years Jen has served as the PennAEYC Associate Executive Director leading the organization's advocacy and policy initiatives at the state and federal levels. Along with campaign partner organizations, Jen was a leader in the launch of Start Strong PA, an advocacy campaign focused on improving access to affordable, high-quality child care, starting with infants and toddlers. She has also played a significant role in the Pre-K for PA advocacy campaign and has developed policy positions on and advocated for PennAEYC's position on legislation, regulations and administration proposals that impact the early care and education field.

We are thrilled to have Jen as the next Executive Director leading the work of PennAEYC as the VOICE of Early Childhood Education in Pennsylvania.

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