

This is a message from the California Department of Education (CDE), Early Learning and Care Division (ELCD).

ELCD Welcomes Director Stephen Propheeter

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond is excited to announce that Stephen Propheeter has been selected to be the new Director of the ELCD at the CDE starting on October 11, 2019.

After a competitive and extensive review process, and in partnership with the executive office and cross-branch hiring panel, Stephen was selected for his wealth of management knowledge and experience, innovative leadership approach, experience collaborating with sensitive workgroups, including the Governor's Office, and experience partnering with state agencies and statewide organizations on highly visible and sensitive policy items. His experience includes collaborating with stakeholders and external control agencies, including the Department of Finance, the Governor's Office, and the Legislative Analyst's Office. He also brings passion and extensive knowledge of early learning and care programs, policies, continuous improvement activities, systems work, and procedures of the state and of CDE.

Stephen joined the ELCD as the Associate Director in April 2019, overseeing the ELCD's monitoring and administrative operations. Stephen brings comprehensive experience in education with over 12 years working at the CDE, and in his current role as the Associate Director of the ELCD. As the ELCD Associate Director, he has provided leadership in the implementation of the ELCD Strategic Plan, including continuing to build on the division's work on equity and improving access to high quality early learning and care programs. Prior to joining the ELCD, Stephen served in a variety of capacities in the Child Development and Nutrition Fiscal Services unit in the Fiscal and Administrative Services Division, including budget and fiscal policy. Stephen brings to the ELCD a track record of building strong relationships with early learning and care stakeholders and contractors at the local and state level. Additionally, as a licensed family child care provider for several years, Stephen and his wife gained insight into some of the challenges and opportunities in operating California's mixed-delivery early learning and care programs.

As the new ELCD Director, Stephen will provide leadership to continue the division's work to improve access, partnering with other divisions in the Opportunities for All Branch to ensure California's youngest learners have the supports needed to succeed in school and life.

Please welcome Stephen into his new ELCD Director position!