

## 2020 Public Policy Agenda

### OUR GOAL

MnAEYC-MnSACA will work aggressively to advance equity and social and economic opportunities, so our youngest citizens, birth to 8, and their families have equitable access to developmentally appropriate, high-quality early learning and afterschool opportunities and the educators and professionals are recognized as vital and performing a critical role for society.

- ✓ We believe every Minnesota child is born to learn and should have healthy emotional development from the beginning.
- ✓ We believe Minnesota needs qualified, diverse, supported and fairly compensated educators and professionals working in the early childhood and afterschool fields.
- ✓ We believe families should have the option to choose among a variety of program settings that meet high-quality standards.
- ✓ We believe in the power of play to spark children's learning.

### Support Working Families by Increasing Access to High-Quality Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs

- ✓ Support changes and increased investments in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) that will ensure more families experiencing high needs are able to access quality care in both early childhood and afterschool settings.
- ✓ Support increased investments in parent-directed scholarships for infant, toddler and preschool children to attend high-quality early learning programs.
- ✓ Support investments to increase access to high-quality before school, afterschool, and summer learning opportunities for all children and youth.

### Support the Quality of Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs

- ✓ Support investments in early childhood evidence-based mental health programs and consultation.
- ✓ Support increased investments for support of afterschool programs in their ongoing pursuit of quality.

### Support the Building and Sustaining of High-Quality Early Childhood and Afterschool Workforces

- ✓ Support increasing the CCAP reimbursement rate & the number of early learning scholarships to create a qualified, diverse and supported field.
- ✓ Support expanding grants to provide increased quality and capacity of early childhood providers in both rural and metro areas.
- ✓ Support increased investments in programs like TEACH and REETAIN to grow and retain the number of early childhood and afterschool professionals.

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