



Supporting Professionals and Promoting Quality

The Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children (MnAEYC)  
The Minnesota School-Age Care Alliance (MnSACA)

## 2017 Public Policy Agenda

### OUR GOAL

MnAEYC-MnSACA will work aggressively to eliminate disparities that affect children, their families and the professionals who educate and care for them. Our goal is that every Minnesota child is nurtured, healthy, eager to learn, and prepared to succeed in school and life. We believe a variety of program options are essential to honor the diverse needs of children and families.

To achieve this goal MnAEYC-MnSACA seeks to improve the quality of early childhood and afterschool in Minnesota by educating policymakers, supporting members to be effective advocates, and by collaborating with other stakeholders to promote policies that address the needs of young children and youth, their families, and the professionals who educate and care for them.

#### 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 increased investments in Parent Aware to continue to support early childhood programs in their ongoing pursuit of quality.
- ✓ Support investments for early childhood mental health training, technical assistance and consultants.
- ✓ 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 new and/or expanded tax credits for families to afford child care, for professionals to stay in the field, and for businesses to invest in high-quality child care.
- ✓ Support increased investments in programs like TEACH and REETAIN to grow and retain the number of early childhood and afterschool professionals.

**For more information, please contact Sara Benzkofer at [sarab@mnaeyc-mnsaca.org](mailto:sarab@mnaeyc-mnsaca.org).**