

# 2019 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

## THE MINNESOTA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION'S VISION

- Every child should arrive at school ready to learn and with the skills and knowledge necessary to continue successful development
- All families should have access to high-quality early childhood programs that support both child development and parents' needs around workforce participation
- Minnesota should invest in sustainable funding that fully supports quality, choice, and access for families as well as respect and appropriate compensation for the professionals who serve them
- The regulatory environment should uphold current best practices in quality, safety, and public information while recognizing provider expertise and supporting continuous improvement

MCCA works on comprehensive solutions to our state's child care needs.

## OUR PRINCIPLES

### High-Quality Child Care:

- Helps children, families, and communities prosper
- Produces public economic and social benefits that matter to everyone
- Is an essential part of Minnesota's early childhood education system

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE

### Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) for Low-Income Families:

- Increase provider reimbursement rates to the 75th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey
- Complete implementation of the "family friendly" reforms of the federal 2014 Child Care & Development Block Grant reauthorization
- Forecast the Basic Sliding Fee portion of CCAP to eliminate wait lists
- Expand income eligibility to serve more families unable to access child care
- Require participation in Parent Aware for CCAP providers

### Tax Credit Support for Access and Quality

- For Licensed, Parent Aware-Rated Providers
  - Early Childhood Educators: annual and ongoing credits based on level of education achieved and retention in licensed, Parent Aware-rated programs
  - Center or Family Child Care Owners/Operators: credits linked to the number of low-income and/or high-risk children served

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### Early Learning Scholarships (ELS), a Targeted Mixed-Delivery, Birth-Five Early Childhood Solution

- Increase overall investment to serve more low-income children in high-quality programs
- Raise annual caps and lower child age eligibility (birth-3) to follow brain research and meet family needs, particularly in the most expensive infant/toddler years

### Supportive & Accountable Regulatory Environment

- Create statewide provider advisory board in partnership with the Department of Human Services
- Develop a tiered licensing system so that public can easily discern minor vs. major citations, and so providers are better supported in continuous improvement

### Reform and Investment in Programs Supporting Child Care Professionals

- Invest state dollars in T.E.A.C.H.\*, a program to help child care professionals increase their level of education
- Invest state dollars in R.E.E.T.A.I.N.\*\*, Minnesota's program to retain quality early childhood educators, and reform program so that professionals are able to qualify in consecutive years

\*Teacher Education And Compensation Helps

\*\*Retaining Early Educators Through Attaining Incentives Now

## CONTACT



**Clare Sanford**  
Chair, Government Relations  
Minnesota Child Care Association  
763-383-6221  
csanford@nhacademy.net



**Phil Griffin**  
Government Relations  
Minnesota Child Care Association  
612-203-7244  
philg@ewald.com