

High-quality child care helps children, families and communities prosper

The Minnesota Child Care Association (MCCA) is a statewide organization representing licensed child care centers throughout Minnesota. MCCA advocates so that policy makers and elected officials understand the important role licensed child care centers play in supporting families and providing quality early learning opportunities for Minnesota's youngest children.

Quality child care matters to everyone

Child care supports work and helps the present and future economy of Minnesota. Licensed child care provides a major contribution to our economy by supporting working families so they can join and stay in Minnesota's workforce. Licensed child centers are not only the workforce of today; they are the workforce of tomorrow and are a major employer across the state.

Quality early education pays high dividends. According to Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, every \$1 we spend on quality early education saves taxpayers up to \$16. And, research by Wilder Research indicates that children who enter Kindergarten unprepared for school cost the K-12 system \$113 million each year.

2012 MCCA Policy Agenda

Improve investments in the state Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- ✓ MCCA supports the funding of a provider reimbursement rate that better reflects the true cost of care, beginning with the reversal of the 2.5% cut that resulted from the 2011 budget compromise.
- ✓ MCCA supports the process of Budgeting for Outcomes as a means to prioritize state spending needs.

Maintain Access to High Quality, Affordable Child Care for All Families

- ✓ MCCA supports maintaining commitments for early childhood funding that supports both the school readiness skills of the child and work support for the parent.
- ✓ MCCA supports targeting resources to licensed, high-quality programs.

Reform state licensing regulations for child care centers

- ✓ MCCA supports reducing and reforming licensing regulations for child care centers that effectively enhance the safety of children while reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulations of providers.

Enhance access to quality early care and education programs to all children

- ✓ MCCA supports efforts to align early learning funding with identified quality programs.