

THE MINNESOTA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

MCCA's mission is to promote the success of licensed child care centers as an integral part of Minnesota's early education system. We serve as a voice for professional, high-quality child care that is affordable, accessible, and able to meet the diverse needs of Minnesota families.

MCCA supports the vision proposed by the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force. In addition, we advocate for the following measures in 2023 to support children, families and early educators:

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Restore reimbursement rates to federally-recommended 75th percentile of current market (Minnesota rates were at this level prior to 2003)
- Increase family income eligibility to federally-allowed maximum (85% State Median Income) without minimum entrance income eligibility level
- Forecast the Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) Child Care Assistance Program in the state budget (permanent reprioritization of the BSF wait list is an excellent step in this direction)

Provider Grants Supporting Compensation

- Continue grants for early educators in licensed child care settings for 4 years, keeping current focus on direct compensation support
- Return grants to the original Stabilization Base Grant level of \$430/FTE/month

Early Learning Scholarships

- Increase investment in both Pathway I and Pathway II Scholarships
- Expand age eligibility to the full 0-5 age spectrum

Quality Child Care Tax Credits

- Establish a refundable early educator credit that increases with individual level of education
- Create additional tax credit for families to help offset the cost to attend licensed Parent Aware-rated providers

Child Care Licensing - Workforce Flexibility

- Allow providers to hire lead teachers who require educational qualifications if a Child Development Associate credential is concurrently pursued and achieved within one year of hire
- Offer option for Aides to function as Assistant Teachers for limited hours at beginning and end of day
- Amend definition of “experience” so that hours worked in direct care of vulnerable populations (elderly, disability, etc.) count towards required experience for child care positions

Immunization Flexibility & Risk Management for Child Care Providers

- Grant providers the option to enroll only children who have received certain vaccinations (medical exemptions allowed)
- Decouple child care providers from public schools in current statute requiring enrollment of unvaccinated children with non-medical exemptions

Child Care Assistance Program Integrity

- Ensure CCAP investigators have the tools needed to prevent, detect, and stop fraud
- Refine statute surrounding CCAP provider audits/investigations to increase emphasis on technical assistance and support for providers

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