



## Supporting Professionals and Promoting Quality

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

### MnAEYC-MnSACA *Principles and Values*

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MnAEYC-MnSACA has been a leader in promoting quality in early care and education and out-of-school programs. We achieve this by supporting the leadership and development of early childhood and out-of-school time professionals. One specific way we support the field is by advocating for public policy change at all levels of government.

This statement of principles is intended to guide MnAEYC-MnSACA's public policy activities, its Policy & Advocacy Advisory Group, and its staff, in dealing with policy makers at all levels of government, with the media, and the public at large. These principles will guide the development of our annual Public Policy Agenda. These Principles do not preclude us from engaging on other issues. They simply serve as a roadmap to guide our activities throughout the year.

#### Collaboration

We work with others who share our principles and values. We believe in the power of the many. We commit time and effort to ensure diverse participation.

#### Transparency

We act with openness and clarity.

#### Broad Impact

As an organization focused on both Minnesota's children and the professionals who support them, we focus our Policy and Advocacy efforts to have the broadest reach possible.

#### Capacity

We recognize that our organization has limited resources. We will prioritize efforts that most align with our mission and vision.

In addition, MnAEYC-MnSACA is an active member of both the Minnesota's Future Early Childhood Coalition and Minnesota's Ignite Afterschool Network. Both groups have established principles and values that also guide the work of MnAEYC- MnSACA. These principles and values can be found on the following pages.



# Minnesota's Future *Principles and Values*

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## Opportunity

Children and families from all backgrounds and all economic circumstances have equal access to high quality early childhood services.

## Quality

Early learning programs and services meet high quality standards that address the developmental needs of children birth to school age.

## Choice

Parents have meaningful choices among a variety of quality early childhood services.

## Coordinated

Building on a diverse delivery system, structures are in place to ensure coordination and integration at the federal, state, and local levels.

## Comprehensive & Holistic

Early childhood programs meet the developmental needs of the whole child within the context of their family and their community.

## Accountable

Early childhood services are driven by defined outcomes to which programs, providers and the system as a whole are held accountable.

## Sustainable

There is sufficient and sustainable investment from both the public and private sectors to ensure continuous access to high quality early childhood services.

## Valuing Parents & Families

Parents are recognized as playing the most significant role in their children's healthy development; policies acknowledge that children learn and grow most successfully in strong families.

## Valuing Professionals

Early childhood programs and services are staffed with high quality professionals who are supported, both educationally and financially, to meet the developmental needs of children birth through school age.

## Valuing Diversity

Early childhood policies and services acknowledge and respond to differences in terms of race, culture, language, geography and a child's particular needs and strengths.



## Ignite Afterschool Network *Principles and Values*

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### Increase Access

Focus investments to address opportunity gaps so that every young person in every community can benefit from high quality afterschool programs.

### Advance Quality

Ensure afterschool programs have access to professional development, continuous program improvement and capacity building supports to meet the developmental needs of children and youth.

### Promote Choice and Variety

Encourage a range of afterschool options in communities so that every young person can find their passion and a sense of belonging.

### Engage Young People in Decision-Making

Encourage purposeful participation by youth in creation and choice of afterschool and summer learning opportunities.

### Foster Partnerships

Encourage supportive partnerships among community organizations, the public sector, parents and young people to foster quality afterschool opportunities.