



## Supporting Professionals and Promoting Quality

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

# 2016 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.

To achieve this goal MnAEYC-MnSACA seeks to improve the quality of early childhood and school-age care in Minnesota by 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

- ✓ Increase access to high quality early childhood programs through parent-directed scholarships for families experiencing high needs.
- ✓ Increase access to high quality afterschool programs, through competitive grants to programs, for families experiencing high needs.
- ✓ Support changes and 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 school-age settings.

### Support the Quality of Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs

- ✓ Increase funding for Parent Aware to continue to support early childhood programs in their ongoing pursuit of quality.
- ✓ Continue to ensure that accredited programs are recognized for their high level of quality.
- ✓ Continue to ensure that the Parent Aware quality rating and improvement system is well-defined, relevant, and accessible across all early childhood programs.
- ✓ Increase funding for support of afterschool programs in their ongoing pursuit of quality.
- ✓ Support the development of systems and policies that build and sustain a high quality workforce in early childhood and afterschool settings.

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