



California Association for the Education of Young Children

PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM 2021

Approved January 2021

CAAIEYC promotes access, for all young children, birth through age 8, to high-quality early care and education opportunities with equity and social justice at the core of our work. To this end, we have established the following as priorities of our advocacy work.

Workforce: Recruitment, development, compensation of a highly skilled, professional, diverse workforce to advance excellence throughout the early care and education field

- Comparable compensation across settings for all early childhood educators with comparable qualifications, experience, and responsibilities
- Increased funding for professional development and higher education opportunities for both center-based staff and family childcare providers
- Credentialing standards for ECE educators that are based on ECE specific knowledge, skills, experience and academic preparation
- Outreach efforts to recruit new members to the field with focused efforts to recruit and promote ECE leaders of color

Quality: High-quality, developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate early care and education programs for all young children, including children with special needs

- Implementation of research-based dual language strategies including family engagement to support continued use of home language(s)
- Increased licensing visits and oversight with well-trained licensing analysts, working in partnership with the field to improve practice rather than just impose sanctions
- Expansion of initiatives for high quality in all ECE programs, private and public
- Examination of quality standards, using the equity lens, for inherent bias and focused efforts to change them
- Increased State allocation of grant funding for facility renovation, repair and new construction

Accessibility: Accessible high-quality early care and education programs for all young children and their families in urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities

- Elimination (or steep reduction) of parent fees, with no family paying more than 7% of income in fees
- Funding to appropriately serve special needs populations in inclusive settings
- Funding for considerable expansion of infant/toddler (CCTR) programs
- Maintaining our traditional ECE (including preschool) mixed delivery system

Affordability: Affordable high-quality early care and education programs for all young children and their families, including both low- and middle-income families

- Expansion of the designated range for income eligibility requirements to allow more families (especially middle-income families) access to subsidized care

Collaborative Partnerships: Collaborations with other organizations, legislators, early care and education professionals, business and community leaders, philanthropy and individuals interested in promoting high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive early care and education programs for all children and families

- Support collective ECE advocacy efforts that include building back a better, stronger post COVID-19 early care and education system for children, parents, providers and communities
- Support improved efficiencies among statewide/regional organizations
- Partner with both ECE and non-ECE organizations in promoting best practices for children and families in their communities, recognizing the economic benefit of high-quality programs