



California Association for the Education of Young Children

PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM 2023-2024

CAAAYC promotes access, for all young children birth through age 8, to high-quality early care and education opportunities with equity and social justice as the core of our work.

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

- Compensation parity across settings for all early childhood educators, in a mixed delivery system, 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 ECE programs in a mixed delivery system, 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

- Advocating for continued implementation of our early care and education programs through a mixed delivery system which addresses individual child needs and parent choice
- 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

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 which 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.