

## Early Childhood Family Education 2025–2030 Enhancement Priorities

The **ECFE Enhancement Plan 2025–2030** is a forward-looking roadmap designed to strengthen and elevate Early Childhood Family Education across Minnesota. This document is specifically crafted for **partners, community leaders, policymakers, and families** who share our commitment to supporting the holistic development of young children and empowering parents. Its purpose is to clearly articulate our strategic priorities and actionable plans for enhancing ECFE programming, ensuring every family has access to high-quality resources and support in the years ahead.

### OBJECTIVE 1: Prioritize Parenting Education and collaborate to advance its practice and effectiveness

#### STRATEGY ONE

Prepare and sustain a larger and more diverse pool of licensed parent educators

- ❖ Implement a comprehensive workforce study to track and analyze staffing trends and demographics over time
- ❖ Forge strategic partnerships with Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) to diversify and expand the pool of licensed parent educators
- ❖ Highlight and disseminate best practices from programs with innovative and creative staffing solutions

#### STRATEGY TWO

Focus professional development to build parenting education capacity

- ❖ Establish a collaborative Parent Ed. Resource Repository with the University of Minnesota
- ❖ Develop strategic professional development focused on state frameworks and guidance
- ❖ Develop and implement a comprehensive system of leadership support and professional development opportunities for Parent Educators

#### STRATEGY THREE

Create and support parenting education practice networks statewide

- ❖ Create Parent Education Collaboratives
- ❖ Support the implementation of mentorship models and guidance for new parent educators

## OBJECTIVE 2: Design and develop ECFE program enhancements and improvements

### STRATEGY ONE

#### Track Program Data

- ❖ Track program offerings across the state
- ❖ Track program participation across the state
- ❖ Develop and launch a public-facing data dashboard to enhance data visibility for districts and stakeholders

### STRATEGY TWO

Assist Programs in developing, conducting, and using the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to enhance programming and services

- ❖ Provide professional development and technical assistance on the CNA
- ❖ Deepen the connection between the CNA and program improvement
- ❖ Showcase and promote exemplary practices of districts leveraging the CNA for program transformation

### STRATEGY THREE

Focus on program quality and develop tools that can be used to frame district conversations related to program improvement

- ❖ Identify quality indicators and statutory requirements
- ❖ Develop and disseminate quality improvement tools and resources
- ❖ Deliver targeted professional development, guidance and technical assistance to drive quality improvements and inspire change
- ❖ Monitor and report district-level program quality improvements

### STRATEGY FOUR

Develop methods to assess program impact

- ❖ Identify and Implement methods for assessing program impact and providing support
- ❖ Connect data across programs and through time (horizontal and vertical)

## OBJECTIVE 3: Advance and elevate family and community engagement and involvement

### STRATEGY ONE

Gather and use information from parents and families to design and improve ECFE programming, climate and culture

- ❖ Survey the climate and culture of programs across the state
- ❖ Develop and disseminate resources and guidance to foster a welcoming and inclusive program culture

### STRATEGY TWO

Provide guidance and strategies for strengthening ECFE Parent Advisory Councils

- ❖ Research effective Parent Advisory Council (PAC) models
- ❖ Provide guidance and support for the establishment and sustainability of robust PACs
- ❖ Track data on PAC composition and performance

### STRATEGY THREE

Make Programming more accessible to families with children Birth to Kindergarten

- ❖ Research and analyze innovative programming models to enhance equitable participation and accessibility across diverse demographics
- ❖ Highlight and facilitate the replication of successful, high-impact program models
- ❖ Create frameworks that could support districts in exploring their options

### STRATEGY FOUR

Enhance marketing and messaging for ECFE

- ❖ Provide clear, consistent messaging to community leaders, stakeholders and policymakers
- ❖ Build district capacity to effectively market and reach out to families
- ❖ Create a marketing toolkit that districts can use to promote ECFE and diversify participation
- ❖ Optimize DCYF communication channels to ensure clarity and strong connections to the field

## OBJECTIVE 4: Enhance and support ECFE leadership development

### STRATEGY ONE

Build ECFE Administrative knowledge, skills, and expertise, focusing on governance

- ❖ Implement knowledge and competency framework for early childhood administrators
- ❖ Collaborate to build and support regional networking groups
- ❖ Develop and disseminate comprehensive ECFE administrative guidance, clarifying statutory interpretations and implementation requirements
- ❖ Explore opportunities to partner in the development of an Early Childhood Administrative credential

### STRATEGY TWO

Build Administrative awareness and instructional leadership about program best practices

- ❖ Survey the field to identify workforce issues and provide guidance for solutions
- ❖ Maintain and widely disseminate up-to-date guidance & technical assistance documents

### STRATEGY THREE

Improve staff support and evaluation

- ❖ Collect and analyze information on effective tools and adaptations for ECFE teacher development
- ❖ Develop strategies for vertical and horizontal alignment of staff development tools
- ❖ Facilitate district collaboration for resource sharing and integration of tools in the Parent Education Repository

## OBJECTIVE 5: Center ECFE as a key driver of horizontal and vertical alignment within P-3 systems

### STRATEGY ONE

Improve coordination of services, partnerships and collaborations horizontally across the P-3 system

- ❖ Identify & collaborate with organizations and programs that provide, support or intersect with parent education
- ❖ Place a particular emphasis on building connections with organizations that represent or serve diverse cultures
- ❖ Foster strategic connections with regional resources and community organizations to elevate ECFE's role and impact
- ❖ Connect with local childcare and Head Start programs

## STRATEGY TWO

Support and connect with established organizations that play a critical role in the advancement of the early childhood field in Minnesota

- ❖ Collaborate with MNAFEE and Institutes of higher education in the support of ECFE
- ❖ Define and articulate the distinct roles and contributions of key agencies supporting the early childhood field
- ❖ Work to collectively leverage our unique strengths as we work together to enhance the voice of early childhood families and professionals statewide

## STRATEGY THREE

Build programming that involves parents and families through time and space as their children develop, prenatal through early elementary

- ❖ Create an operating framework for family engagement and the central role that it plays in EC education
- ❖ Promote and disseminate tools that could support a family's transition to kindergarten
- ❖ Increase awareness and provide resources to further develop and deepen the connections between early childhood and early elementary

## STRATEGY FOUR

Strengthen ECFE leadership by clarifying the potential of ECFE within their district P-3 system

- ❖ Support ECFE leaders to identify and integrate initiatives that bridge ECFE with K-12 systems
- ❖ Advocate for increased access to district supports for Early Childhood departments
- ❖ Conduct an analysis of statutes to identify and leverage intersections with ECFE programming