



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: During the first five years of a child’s life their brain undergoes rapid development, providing the foundation for future learning, behavior, and health. These early years can have lifelong physical, social, and emotional impacts; and
- WHEREAS: Access to high-quality child care and education is associated with improved cognitive and language development, social and emotional development, and future success in school; and
- WHEREAS: Investments that close opportunity gaps by expanding access to high quality early care and education have been shown to generate strong returns, improving lifelong education and health outcomes, increasing employment and earnings, and reducing public costs; and
- WHEREAS: The early childhood providers and educators who work with or on behalf of young children are central to our economy and the health and well-being of our families and communities. Their critical and steadfast efforts warrant thanks and recognition; and
- WHEREAS: Public policies and investments in early care and education for all young children are crucial to the prosperity of our society – the future of our state depends on the resources we provide Minnesota’s young children today; and
- WHEREAS: Through the One Minnesota Budget, signed into law in 2023, Minnesota made significant investments to improve child care affordability and accessibility, expanded access to prekindergarten, and increased support for the state’s child care workforce, prioritizing working families and economic relief to ensure equal opportunity for all children; and
- WHEREAS: The week of the Young Child celebrates early children and the adults who support them, centering the needs of young children and their families while recognizing the early care and education programs and services that meet those needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April 11-17, 2026, as:

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 7th day of April.




GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE