

For Immediate Release



Contact: Beth Yokom
Phone: 763-506-1266
Cell: 651-247-3856
Email: Beth.Yokom@ahschools.us

MN GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON PROCLAIMS MAY 22: CELEBRATE MINNESOTA EARLY LEARNING DAY • 10 AM-Noon • Mall of America [Saint Paul MN May 10, 2018]

Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed May 22 as Minnesota Early Learning Day. The day includes a statewide celebration of Minnesota's youngest students at Mall of America. Governor Dayton's proclamation recognizes and celebrates Minnesota for leading the nation in providing high quality early learning programs available to all families through the public schools. These programs include: Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), School Readiness Preschool and Voluntary Pre-K. Minnesota is also fortunate to have Head Start, child care providers, Way To Grow and other early childhood programs offering early education and care for our youngest children and their families. Early childhood education provides both immediate benefits and long-term positive outcomes for children. *"We know access to high quality early learning is the best way to ensure every child is ready to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond. The Governor understands how these programs are highly cost effective investments in the future academic success of Minnesota's young children."* Beth Yokom, Chair, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education. (MNAFEE)

The May 22 MOA event will also recognize and thank Mark Dayton for his unwavering support of early learning programs in his two terms as Governor. "Throughout his tenure, Gov. Dayton has made universal, state-supported preschool a pillar of his education agenda." (Star Tribune 4.17.18) On May 22, Gov. Dayton will receive an award from MNAFEE, naming him as Minnesota's Champion of Early Education, tirelessly supporting high quality early education in Minnesota's public schools. In a fun gesture, he will also be given a Super Hero's cape, naming him "Minnesota's Caped Crusader for Children's Early Learning."

As a Minnesota-wide celebration, children and parents from programs around the state will appear on the MOA stage screen in the Rotunda. The event will also be available statewide via live stream video. Fun activities and crafts for young children will take place as the event is part of MOA's "Toddler Tuesday." Parent information tables will be available featuring Early Education resources.

The event entertainment is Minnesota's own Teddy Bear Band. The band's roots are in early education. Back in 1985 an ECFE teacher met three musician dads and they decided to form a band, taking age-appropriate "circle time" music for young children to the stage. They've now connected musically with young children for over three decades and have a multi-generational following.

###