

Notes from the policy work group meeting 1/30/18

ECFE would be well served to have more administrative help from MDE to our own local programs. It would be ideal to have two more positions added at MDE to represent school based EC programs. Ideally, one position would be to meet the administrative needs of the programs, including VPK, and the other to work in family engagement. We are asking for a policy that would dedicate a percentage of existing monies in ECFE to meet 1.0 FTE administrative education specialist at MDE and funding for professional development.

The new positions would focus on administrative needs, program management, professional development, and aligning parent educators to the parent engagement needs described in the ESSA plan for Minnesota.

ECFE is well served when local school administrators have an understanding of early childhood development. ECFE supports legislative efforts to fund and support the Principal Leadership Series run by MDE.

ECFE is well served when Early Childhood teachers and parent educators are recognized in contracts as equal to other teachers.

Parent Aware has become a cumbersome program to manage in schools. All school based programs should automatically qualify as four star rated and licensed teachers should automatically qualify to train for Develop. Parent Aware is a double bureaucracy.

ECFE would be well served by a task force called "All schools ready for children" that would help to create and navigate relationships with other political forces working to prepare children for kindergarten. The rhetoric around readiness is toxic and has not served children in Minnesota well. There are many "vendors" working to prepare children for school and few focused on preparing schools for children.