

## **Michigan AEYC Policy Agenda**

Michigan AEYC is a resource for current research and practices related to early childhood education (ages prenatal through eight) and supports continued improvement in policy. Michigan AEYC drafts or revises an annual policy agenda to guide work with members, the community, legislature and other stakeholders. From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, Michigan AEYC has chosen to focus on the following agenda items:

### **Affordable and Accessible High Quality Early Learning**

Research demonstrates the positive impact that high quality early learning has on young children. Current brain research has informed us that 80% of a child's brain is developed by age 3, causing an increased focus on the care and education of infants and toddlers. Michigan has supported a focus on quality with the Great Start to Quality System. We look forward to improving the affordability and accessibility to high quality early learning for all young children through improvements in Child Development and Care.

### **Early Language and Literacy Development**

Providing children with language and literacy-rich environments and interactions strengthen children's potential to become proficient readers and writers. Developmentally appropriate activities support children's literacy knowledge and skills in the early years, which predict later literacy achievement. We support the efforts in Michigan that are underway related to research-based essential literacy practices.

### **Social-Emotional Competence of Young Children and Staff**

As early childhood professionals, we're seeing the value of supporting social-emotional competence in both children and professionals working with young children. We are more aware of the impacts of stress and trauma on young children, and the needs of professionals supporting children. We support initiatives that address the ecological, social-emotional needs of children, families, professionals, and community members.

### **Equitable Support**

Equitability ensures resources are distributed based on need so that all can participate fairly. Early Childhood Professionals need education and experience specific to their work with young children. They also need time, materials, and staffing to establish relationships with each child and family to make a strong, positive impact at a critical time in a child's development. They also need compensation that is equitable to the work that is required. We support initiatives that increase the equitable support for early childhood professionals.

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