



404 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404
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March 19, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

We write on behalf of the Education Partnerships Coalition to express our strong support for Senate File 1049, which seeks \$96.5 million in funding for Early Learning Scholarships.

As a statewide coalition committed to ensuring that all children and youth in Minnesota have access to the education and resources they need to succeed, we believe this investment is both timely and critical in this moment where early childhood education is an issue with broad support in diverse communities across our great state.

Early childhood education is a fundamental building block for future academic success, social-emotional well-being, and long-term achievement. Research consistently shows that quality early learning experiences, particularly for children from low-income backgrounds and historically marginalized communities, have a profound impact on their educational, career, and life outcomes. Senate File 1049 represents a significant step toward expanding access to these transformative opportunities for thousands of Minnesota children.

In addition, a strong early childhood support ecosystem is increasingly recognized as a competitive advantage when communities and states seek to attract and develop a workforce for the future. Those that invest in early childhood are winning this race.

The Education Partnerships Coalition brings together a broad array of community initiatives that work at the local level to support children and families from early childhood to early profession.

Our members are deeply invested in ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or zip code, is given the tools and resources needed to thrive.

We believe that providing additional funding for Early Learning Scholarships will break barriers to high-quality early education and allow families across Minnesota to make choices that best meet the needs of their children and allow parents to participate fully in the workforce.

In closing, the Education Partnerships Coalition strongly urges you to support Senate File 1049 and the vital funding it provides for Early Learning Scholarships.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the success of Minnesota's children.

Sincerely,

Education Partnerships Coalition, including:

Austin Aspires * Children First (West Metro) * C2C (Rochester) * Generation Next (Twin Cities) * Healthy Community Initiative (Northfield & Faribault) * Northside Achievement Zone (Minneapolis) * RiseUp Partnership (Red Wing) * Saint Paul Promise * United Way of Central Minnesota (Greater St. Cloud)

Our children succeed in school and in life. Our communities thrive. Our state is equitable and prosperous for ALL.