

# Early Care and Education Crisis Work Group Consensus Recommendations (HF 2195)

## Better Coordinate the Child Care Assistance Program and Early Learning Scholarships

The 2018 Office of the Legislative Auditor's (OLA) report points out that the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and Early Learning Scholarships (ELS) are both programs used to provide families with access to early childhood education programs through a mixed delivery system. Under current policies, families often use both programs and providers often serve children using both programs. But the application process, eligibility standards, program administration and quality requirements are not aligned, nor does either program fully cover the cost of high-quality early childhood care and education. **HF 2195 creates a task force to review CCAP & ELS and make recommendations to the legislature on how best to address these coordination challenges.** Better coordinating the two will have the benefit of 1) making the programs work more smoothly for both parents and ECE providers and 2) laying the groundwork for further streamlining of the two programs to improve access for families and reduce administrative hassles.

## Continuously Improve Parent Aware Standards

While Parent Aware quality standards and indicators reflect and reward practices that research shows are leading to significant gains in kindergarten-readiness measures, we are constantly learning about how to better support both children and providers. **HF 2195 proposes a regular evaluation of the Parent Aware quality rating & improvement system be done every four years to maintain the state's commitment to continuously improving the rating system to ensure children are receiving the quality care they need and deserve.**

## Improve Data Collection, Analysis & Reporting on Children's Program Participation & Outcomes

To inform better decision-making and system improvement, better data must be collected, analyzed and made publicly available to allow better understanding of our youngest learners' outcomes and their publicly-funded program participation. **HF 2195 makes progress towards those goals by implementing the OLA's recommendations to create a universal identifier for children participating in early learning programs and require a kindergarten readiness assessment to aid in measuring both the success of our kids and our early learning programs.**



**\*\*Full report detailing all work group recommendations is available at [www.ThinkSmall.org/Crisis](http://www.ThinkSmall.org/Crisis)\*\***