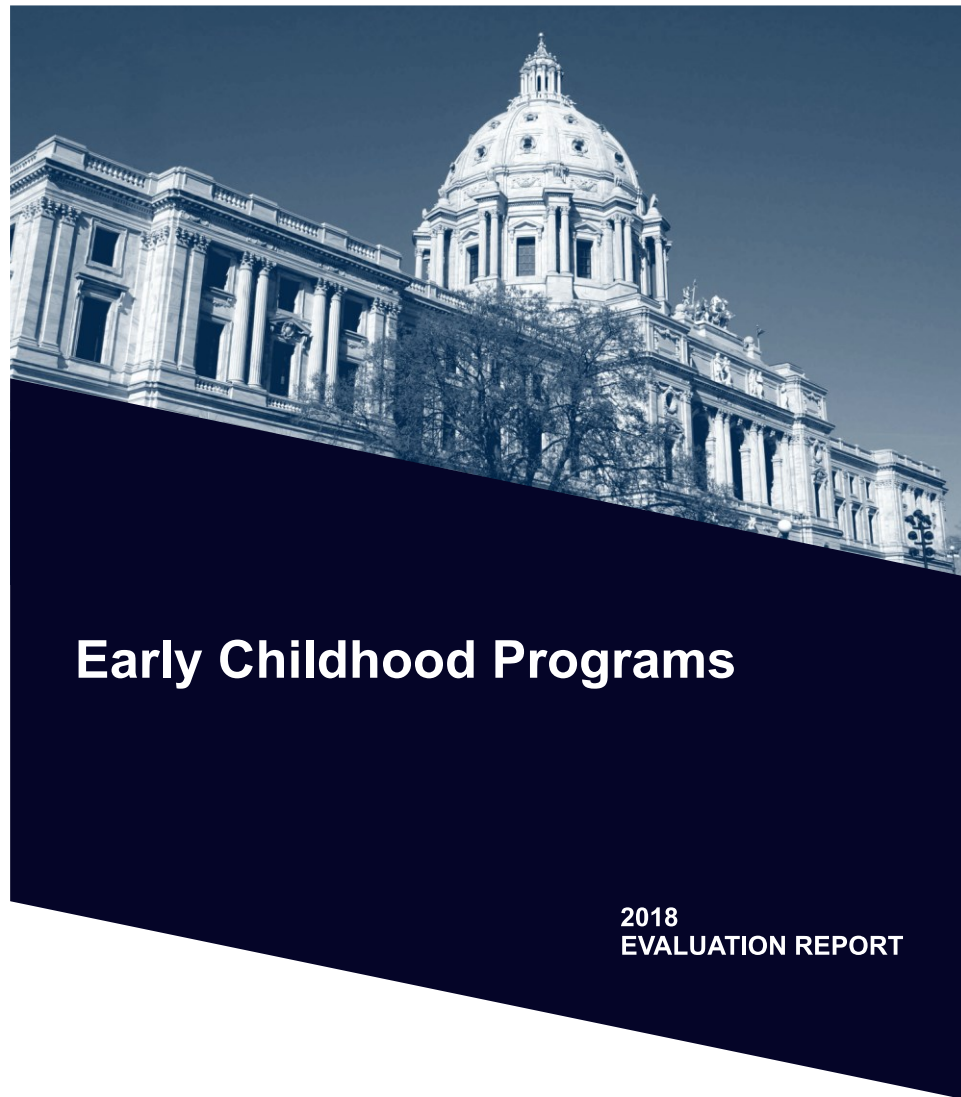


HF 1024: Department of Early Childhood

House Education Finance Committee
February 23, 2021

State Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, House Early Childhood Finance & Policy Committee



Early Childhood Programs

2018
EVALUATION REPORT

Differences in funding and program requirements have created a complex, fragmented set of early childhood programs.

Complexities in certain programs create burdens for families, which may result in lower access to needed services. They also create difficulties for program providers. (p. 30)

Example – fragmented oversight of “quality” in early care and learning

Department of Human Services

- Licensing and regulation of many individuals / institutions
- Parent Aware quality rating and improvement system
- Information to families, support for professional development

Department of Education

- Licensing and regulation of others (with some overlap)
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- Other info to families, support for professional development

Not a new idea

- 2011 Legislative Task Force recommendation:
 - Transfer programs from MDE, DHS, MDH to a free-standing agency
 - Cabinet-level position with authority and responsibility for policy, fiscal, and rule making
 - Goal: “all children ready for school by 2020”
- Strong movement in other states. Just a few examples...
 - Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
 - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
 - New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department
 - Washington Department of Early Learning (since expanded to include child welfare issues as the Department of Children, Youth, and Families)

Department of Early Childhood: accountability

- Must develop and report on program objectives and performance measures (page 5 of the bill)
 - Addressing racial inequities
 - Ensuring kindergarten-readiness
 - Increasing coordination and reducing inefficiencies
 - Improving articulation with the K-12 system
 - Minimizing the burden on families
- Regular legislative reports
 - Analysis of effectiveness, with reference to the program objectives and performance measures
 - Particular focus on coordination and efficiency among programs and funding streams