

SCHOOL READINESS FUNDERS COALITION AGENDA TO ACHIEVE LEARNING READINESS BY 2020

Coalition members: Blandin Foundation, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Grotto Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis Foundation, Sheltering Arms Foundation, Social Venture Partners, Women's Foundation of Minnesota

Why are funders doing this work?

- We care deeply about helping our State to build a system that delivers successful outcomes for all kids.
- We have a unique perspective that we can bring to the table
- We want our to align our grantmaking and investments with a clear action plan, accountability, and outcomes

Our process:

- Extensive review of research on ECCE in Minnesota produced since 2000; literature review, numerous group discussions, 175 interviews
- Identified a long list of critical ECCE needs
- Determined that before addressing needs, Minnesota would benefit by developing a framework within which to base ECCE decisions

Three key elements to successful state system: Leadership, Accountability, Funding

- 1. LEADERSHIP: Create a cabinet-level agency focused on ECCE**
 - A Minnesota Office of Early Learning (or state agency with same focus/role)
 - Accountable for ensuring the quality of the ECCE system and assessing state progress towards 2020 the goal
 - Operational by FY 2012
- 2. STATE ACCOUNTABILITY: Establish Statewide Report Card**
 - Provides the accountability framework for ECCE in Minnesota
 - Annually reports the progress of all levels of the state's ECCE system
 - A guide in decision-making for funding, regulatory policies and training
- 3. PROVIDER ACCOUNTABILITY: Expand QRIS**
 - Minnesota needs a consistent Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) with meeting standards aligned with results
 - Build on strengths of Parent Aware QRIS
- 4. SYSTEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY: Expand Screening and Assessment**
 - ALL Minnesota children, starting at age 3, must be assessed for progress toward school readiness by 2020, with a milestone goal of screening and assessment of 50% of children by the year 2015
- 5. FUNDING: See one-page timeline**