

## 2025 Policy Agenda

### 2025 Policy Priorities

COAEYC annually develops policy priorities to ensure consistency and alignment with COAEYC's mission, vision, and strategic plan when making decisions to support, oppose, or watch legislation.

1. COAEYC will advocate for workforce strategies that support recruitment, retention, quality, and competency, including:
  - a. Advocacy for wages, compensation, and benefits for early childhood professionals that reflect the critical importance of their role in the development of young children and the support of their families and communities.
  - b. Advocacy for equitable and affordable access to higher education, professional development, and high-quality career pathways for early childhood professionals.
2. COAEYC will advocate for regulations and quality standards that ensure that young children are being nurtured in safe, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive care and learning environments. Standards should align with evidence-based practices, prioritize the well-being and holistic development of children, and include ongoing professional development for educators.
3. COAEYC will advocate for equitable and affordable access to high-quality early learning and care programming for all of Colorado's young children through initiatives including but not limited to opportunities that increase access through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and the Colorado Universal Preschool Program.
4. COAEYC will advocate for collaboration and effective communication that creates supportive systems and smooth transitions for incoming kindergartners, their families, and their educators.
5. COAEYC will advocate for federal, state, and local funding that increases access for young children and families to receive local early childhood services including but not limited to care and education, special education services, early childhood mental health consultation, developmental screenings, referrals, and intervention, and other critical services that support the growth and development of young children.

## **2025 Projects and Activities**

### **Focus:**

1. COAEYC will continue to provide free advocacy education, resources, and mentorship to our members so that they can advocate for the issues they personally care about.
2. COAEYC will provide opportunities and guidance for members to engage in advocacy.
3. COAEYC's board members will stay informed and up-to-date on federal and state policies that impact early childhood.
4. COAEYC will engage in coalitions or advocacy groups that align with COAEYC's mission, vision, and policy priorities.

### **Projects or Action Items:**

1. COAEYC will work with volunteers and partner organizations to provide content and workshops to support the growth of COAEYC members and other early childhood professionals as advocates for early childhood education.
2. COAEYC will participate in recruiting early childhood professionals from Colorado to attend and participate in the 2025 NAEYC Public Policy Forum.
3. At least one board member attends early childhood-focused advocacy and policy meetings in Colorado. Those members will share updates, handouts, and other relevant information with the board, as well as give feedback during these meetings that align with COAEYC's and NAEYC's mission and values. This will allow us to assist in the creation of these systems as well as keep board members informed.