

2024 Child care and early learning legislative summary

This summary includes 2024 legislative changes to child care, including the Child Care Assistance Program, Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program, Parent Aware, Child Care Capacity-building, and Workforce Development.

*Programs of DHS and MDE agencies below, during the 2024 session, became DCYF July 1, 2024.

Change	Agency*	Impact
Funding	DHS/DCYF	\$500,000 in FY25 federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds for grants to coordinate professional development for child care providers.
Funding	DHS/DCYF	\$1.125 million in FY25 for the Child Care Facility Revitalization Program for grants to fix, repair, and revitalize licensed family child care, licensed child care centers, certified centers, and legal non-licensed child care providers registered to receive the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
Funding	N/A	\$350,000 annually ongoing in federal CCDBG funds to permanently support the Office of the Family Child Care Ombudsperson. The statute for the office was updated to make the office independent from DHS or any other state agency.
Funding	DEED	\$1 million in FY24-25 from the workforce development fund for a grant to WomenVenture for supporting child care providers by providing business training, mentorship, services, and educational materials, by facilitating shared administrative staff and pooled management of services such as banking and payroll, by providing child care management software and software training, and by distributing subgrants and loans, which may be forgivable at WomenVenture's discretion.
Funding	DHS/DCYF	\$122,000 in FY24-25 and \$244 in FY26-27 to replace the child care licensing fix-it ticket with a weighted risk system. The weighted risk system will evaluate child care licensing violations and repeals the fix-it ticket requirement specified in MN Statutes 245A.065.
Policy	DHS/DCYF	Allows the owner of a licensed child care center or provider in a licensed family child care business to require all children in their care to be fully immunized unless they can't be immunized due to health factors
Policy	DHS/DCYF	Clarifies that the effective date for 2023 legislation that changed the requirements for a One-Star Parent Aware Rating to licensure alone is July 1, 2026. The 2023 legislation incorrectly established the effective date as July 1, 2023, which was not achievable.

Policy	DHS/DCYF	Clarifies process for administrative disqualification of child care providers caring for children accessing CCAP, adds email addresses of providers to public licensing data (with exception for family child foster care), and allows the department to send or receive notices regarding the right to a fair hearing to providers through the provider hub .
Funding	MDE/DCYF	Allocates the \$50 million set-aside from 2023 to increase the Voluntary PreK seats by 5,200 for a total of 12,360 in FY25. Made policy changes to establish that Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts are individual regions for purposes of seat allocations and makes a uniform set of standards for prekindergarten programs, including by ending the School Readiness Plus Program.
Policy	MDE/DCYF	Made the following policy changes to Early Learning Scholarships (ELS) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows up to \$7 million of the ELS appropriation to be used for IT costs to make prospective provider payments, allow applications online, and allow electronic submission and verification of family eligibility. • Clarifies that children in foster care or in need of protective services qualify for an ELS categorically and that priority applies to children who are receiving or undergoing treatment in mental health or prenatal substance use exposure. • Expands ELS priority to children with an individualized education plan (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP).
Policy	MDE/DCYF	Allows up to 2% of the Early Head Start and Head Start state appropriation be used for state-level program and funding distribution support beginning in FY25.
Policy	Public Safety	Prohibits Home Owners' Associations (HOAs), which are private entities, from restricting or refusing to permit a homeowner from providing licensed family child care . The law applies only to single-family detached homes and multi-family attached homes when the entire building is held by a single owner.