

# Start Early

Funders Coalition for Children & Minnesota's Future

## Creating a New Coalition

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The *School Readiness Funders Coalition* and the *Early Childhood Funders Network* were two organizations with overlapping:

- membership
- objectives
- perspective

Merging the two organizations will build a stronger, more effective voice for early childhood in support of critical reform recommendations.

## Core Attributes

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### School Readiness Funders Coalition

#### Policy-focus

All efforts support advancement of a three-point policy agenda

#### Advocacy and lobbying

Develop legislation in partnership with Legislators; lobby for and against specific legislation

#### Public awareness

Advance the issues through Communications

#### Funding

Fund policy initiatives to advance the agenda

Start Early Funders Coalition: Unique Attributes

### Early Childhood Funders Network

#### Convening and cross-sector conversation

Topical discussions, exchange of information and ideas

#### Research and best practices

Fund research studies to strengthen funders' collective efforts

#### Minnesota Council on Foundations

Partner with MCF and other networks

#### Self-educating

Statewide representation

Philanthropic voice

Credible and unique perspective

Commitment to shared learning and capacity building

Long-term comprehensive vision for children and our state

# *Start Early Funders Coalition Vision & Mission*

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## **VISION**

The story a leader tells about where the organization is going; the aspirations that drive future growth

Every child in Minnesota will be physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success.

## **MISSION**

A concise statement of purpose or aspiration for the organization

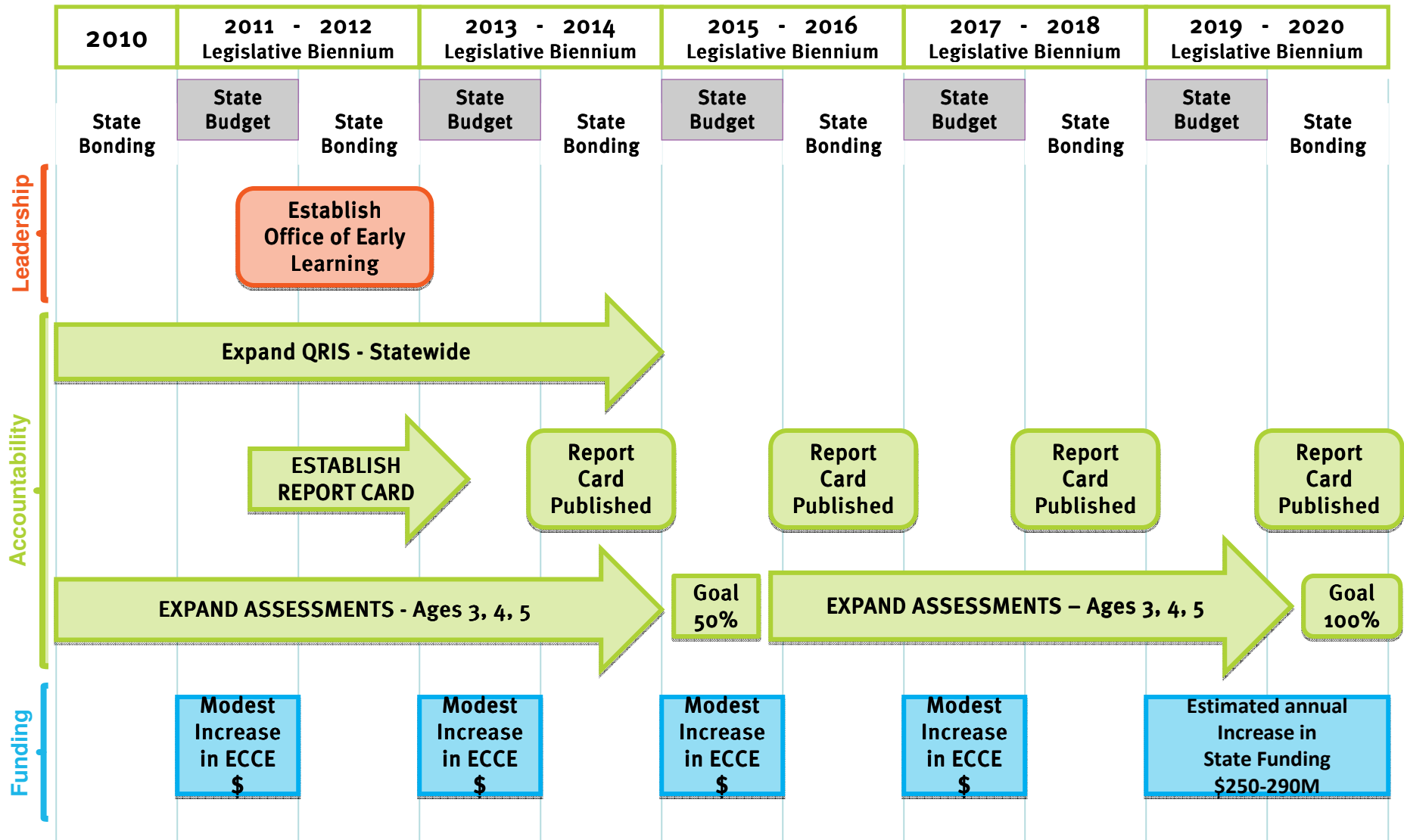
To leverage our unique perspective as early childhood funders to advance public policy and community support for affordable, accessible, high quality care and education in Minnesota so that all children have a strong and healthy start and are prepared to contribute to our state's vitality.

## *Policy Committee Goals*

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- Build on the momentum and success of the School Readiness Funders Policy Agenda
- Develop a 2011 – 2013 policy agenda across the branches of state and local government
- Align policy agenda with Early Learning Council's focus on ages 0 – 8; and serve as the primary point of contact with the Early Learning Council

# Achieving All Children Ready To Learn By 2020



**Leadership** – create one office responsible for early childhood care and education

**Accountability** – expand a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) to help providers improve, establish a report card that rates providers to help parents select quality early childhood care and learning environments and evaluate children beginning at age three to ensure school-readiness by age five

**Funding** – support existing and new funding initiatives

## *Learning & Research Committee Goals*

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- Share knowledge to strengthen the individual and collective efforts of funders to enhance the well-being of Minnesota children and families with a focus on the whole child.
- Provide a yearly schedule of convenings and training opportunities as well as promote the conducting and implementation of research around early childhood.
- Provide networking opportunities for sharing best practices and identifying potential collaborative efforts.
- Support the Policy Committee through the identification of key policy and advocacy issues that arise.

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