

# 2026 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

## COMMITMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Options for Learning is committed to advocating at local, state, and national levels to ensure that all families in our service area have access to a mixed-delivery system of early care and education (ECE) and school-aged programs that meet the needs of the whole child and family.

### Fostering opportunities

Promoting social and economic progress in early care and education by removing barriers for families and child care professionals.

### Engaging mixed-delivery system

Advocating for a mixed-delivery system\* of child care and early childhood education to meet the needs of families and children.

### Enhancing awareness

Building partnerships with key stakeholders and advocating for policies that support children, families, and the child care workforce.

\*Including center-based programs (nonprofit and private centers); Family Child Care (FCC); Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN); Universal Prekindergarten (UPK); Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK); school-aged and After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs; school districts.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



**Our public policy priorities focus on legislation that support three key areas:**

**Fair pay:** Advocating for fair reimbursement rates and continued investment to ensure high-quality child care, nutrition programs, and equitable pay for child care professionals.

**Professional support:** Advocating for increased recruitment, retention, and professional development of child care providers through funding and support for high-quality training across diverse care settings.

**Resource expansion:** Advocating for affordable early care and education programs and increase resource support for families.

**Scan code to learn more about our public policy priorities.**