DRAFT Recommendations Presented to

The ECAC Executive Leadership Subcommittee & General ECAC

Submitted by: ECAC Policy & Finance Subcommittee

The Nevada ECAC Policy & Finance Subcommittee recommends including the following in the 2025 Nevada ECAC Annual Report as policy recommendations to the Nevada Legislature and Governor.

Summary of ECAC Policy Priorities:

Child Care Access & Affordability

- Expand subsidies and financial assistance for families.
- Increase availability of quality child care and Pre-K programs (including full day).
- Ensure foster families and underserved communities have consistent access.

Workforce Support & Compensation

- Increase wages and benefits, including health insurance, for the early care workforce.
- Expand training pathways and reduce burdensome requirements.
- Support program sustainability in both urban and rural areas.
- Evaluate the efficacy of current processes, including the use of waivers, in maintaining mandated student-teach ratios in Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms.

System Alignment & Governance

- Address fragmentation across early childhood, K–12, and child welfare systems.
- Establish a clear governance structure for early childhood.
- Implement a universal application to streamline program access.

Family Support & Engagement

- Adopt family-centered approaches across all programs.
- Simplify communication of resources and reduce administrative burdens.
- Expand home visiting programs and engagement supports.

Health & Well-being

- Expand access to health supports for young children and the workforce.
- Promote trauma-informed practices in child welfare and early education.
- Ensure early identification and intervention for at-risk children.

Data & Accountability

- Develop an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).
- Use data to guide decision-making and track outcomes.

ECAC 2026 Interim Policy Recommendations to the Legislature and Governor:

1. The Nevada ECAC recommends the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services schedule presentations during the 2026 Interim to understand current barriers and potential policy solutions to consider for the 2027 Legislative Session for the following priority issues identified by the ECAC:

- **Early Care and Education Access and Affordability** – Opportunities to expand access to high quality, affordable early care and education programs that meet the needs of families, including foster families and relative caregivers.
- **Early Childhood Education Workforce Supports and Compensation –** Opportunities to increase training, reduce administrative barriers and support livable wages and benefits for the early childhood workforce. Address the impact on teachers and students of utilizing waivers to go over mandated student-teacher ratios in Kindergarten classrooms.
- **Systems Alignment and Governance** – Address fragmentation across Nevada's early childhood system and solutions to improve our early childhood governance structure, including the adoption of family-centered approaches, alignment of policies and regulations, streamlining administrative processes, and utilizing systems to support data driven decision-making. Evaluate efficacy of current processes to maintain state-mandated student teacher ratios.

2. The Nevada ECAC recommends the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs to schedule a presentation during the 2026 Interim to discuss current barriers and potential policy solutions to address Early Childhood System Governance and Infrastructure.

3. The Nevada ECAC recommends the Joint Interim Committee on Revenue to schedule a presentation during the 2026 Interim to discuss funding needs of Nevada's early childhood system and assess potential revenue streams to expand access to high quality early childhood programs and services that meet the needs of families with young children in Nevada.

4. The Nevada ECAC recommends the Governor's Office to assess and consider opportunities to realign and streamline the governance structure of Nevada's early childhood programs and services to address fragmentation, improve administrative efficiency and coordinate services to support a family-centric approach to the delivery and implementation of key early childhood programs and services.