



To: Representative Dave Pinto, Chair, & Children & Families Finance & Policy Committee Members

From: Minnesota Association for Family & Early Education (MNAFEE) representing
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Subject: **HF1815**

Date: March 8, 2023

The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) requests your support for HF 1815, which expands funding for a curriculum grant to The Family Partnership for a pilot program on Executive Functioning Across Generations (EFAG). This curriculum is designed to build executive functioning and self-regulation skills in preschool children ages 3-5. Executive function (EF) skills help young children learn how to learn, do well in school, make and keep friends, help adolescents make healthy choices and build healthy relationships, and help adults to get and keep a job, eventually parenting their own children well. These EF skills include working memory, impulse control, cognitive flexibility, and persistence.

The EFAG curriculum is centered on equity and has been piloted and extensively evaluated with low-income children in five states. The program has shown a strong impact on the building blocks for EF skills. The Family Partnership is planning to expand the curriculum to include parents and plans to pilot this curriculum for both young children and their parents. They have connected with Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) through MNAFEE as one of the programs in which to pilot this two-generation curriculum program designed to strengthen understanding and development of EF skills with both young children and their parents. As a universal access, statewide public school program for all MN children ages 0-5, ECFE is available for piloting the EFAG curriculum with low-income families across rural, suburban, and urban areas, providing both parenting groups and home visiting engaging parents and children together.

MNAFEE enthusiastically supports HF1815 and the opportunity it will provide for many more children to learn EF skills enhanced and strengthened by involvement of their parents. We urge your approval of this grant to The Family Partnership to make this cross-generations executive function curriculum piloting possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

MNAFEE Advocacy Committee Members
Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education