

OKAEYC Statement of Support – HB 1979

Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children (OKAEYC)

The Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children (OKAEYC) supports the advancement of **HB 1979**, legislation proposing the creation of a temporary Early Childhood Task Force to study coordination, access, and effectiveness within Oklahoma's early childhood systems.

HB 1979 does **not** enact immediate structural or regulatory changes. Rather, it establishes a research-based and transparent process for gathering data, reviewing funding streams, and inviting stakeholder input before future policy decisions are considered.

OKAEYC believes that informed and collaborative decision-making benefits children, families, educators, and providers across Oklahoma. A structured review process allows practitioner voices, family perspectives, and community needs to be included in statewide conversations while maintaining stability for programs currently serving young children.

Our support reflects a commitment to:

- Child-centered policy development
- Educator and provider representation
- Transparency and public engagement
- Data-informed planning

OKAEYC will continue to provide informational updates to members and encourage balanced participation in early childhood policy discussions. This statement does **not** indicate endorsement of any specific future governance model, but rather support for a thoughtful and inclusive review process.