



Maryland State Child Care Association

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***Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™***

Greetings Member!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Maryland State Child Care Association for the 2023 calendar year. MSCCA is delighted to have you as a member and are most grateful for your commitment to professional, licensed, quality child care and education!

MSCCA understands your issues and helps to elevate your voices at the local, state, and federal levels. We have worked hard to share the concerns, barriers and challenges of the industry as well as highlight the successes to impact change when we can. We are so proud to represent child care programs and early childhood educators because you have proven what we already know, how critical your services/businesses are to children, families and our state. MSCCA advocates for rebuilding with sustainable investments. MSCCA has a focus on our Priorities Agenda which includes addressing barriers related to critical workforce shortages; unintended consequences of the Blueprint for MD related to expansion of universal prekindergarten; and investments to achieve affordable, quality and equitable child care choices for children and their families.

It is our goal to provide superior membership benefits and expand benefits for members to best serve your needs and interests. Due to the COVID pandemic, MSCCA suspended increases in 2020 and 2021 to dues structure. The 2023 annual dues reflect an increase of 5% from 2022. Your membership also includes membership to our national affiliate, the National Child Care Association. The fee has risen to \$16.00 year. The membership certificates for 2023 will include both MSCCA state and NCCA national logos. You will receive a membership certificate from MSCCA for calendar year 2023.

Advocacy is an important part of MSCCA's membership benefits and mission. We enjoyed numerous legislative successes in 2022! The need for an Executive Director and a dedicated, professional lobbyist to represent child care/early education programs, businesses throughout the year and especially during legislative session is important and has proven successful, but is also a strain on a limited budget. Child Care and early childhood education businesses staying viable and being represented is important to you and to the economy. MSCCA will need to continue to require an advocacy fee for 2023 from all members of the organization. The required fee for the professional Compass Advocacy in Annapolis Maryland has increased. To meet the costs of the lobbying fees of \$42,000 annually, we divide the number of members by the annual cost to determine the required advocacy fees for membership. Please visit mscca.org and check your emails from MSCCA to review testimony, recap of all legislation and related advocacy efforts MSCCA has engaged in for our members.

MSCCA will continue to offer the Passion for Excellence grant annually for members only and we host the two professional development statewide conferences annually offering over 24 hours of Core of Knowledge approved training with discounts for MSCCA members only!

Also, membership benefits include eligibility for one Professional Activity Unit for **each of your staff** working within your programs when the program joins as a member and consistent communication about industry related topics through Constant Contacts and social media posts.

Please reach out to the MSCCA Chapters throughout Maryland to engage at the local and community level because as state members, you are also a welcome to participate in your local MSCCA chapter. All contact information for our Chapters is available on our website at www.mscca.org.

Please check out our MSCCA Business Members at mscca.org! The MSCCA Business members are dedicated to serving MSCCA members and embrace our vision and mission. The opportunity to find products and services you may need or desire and develop a relationship with the businesses who have gone above and beyond to be a part of our organization is an exciting part of the membership benefits we offer.

Please feel free to contact me, Lisa Dickinson, Membership Co-Chair, ladickinson11@gmail.com, or Charles Wainwright, Membership Co-Chair, childrensenrichment@msn.com should you need assistance or have questions related to your membership.

MSCCA recognizes the importance of social justice as a necessary component of our vision and mission as an organization. We included the following commitment statement to guide our work:

Our mission at MSCCA is to promote the growth and development of professional licensed childcare and learning centers in Maryland. It is our goal to embrace diversity in our membership, our programming, and our resources. We are disheartened to see the violence and continued oppression of people of color and the long-term negative effects this has on their health and well-being. As such, we believe that issues of race, equity, and social justice are an integral part of the learning environment. For educators and childcare providers, equity means access to quality professional development, earning a living wage, and bringing their home cultures into the learning environment. By creating antiracist learning environments, we empower children to embrace diversity in all its forms so they can become compassionate citizens of a global community.

MSCCA appreciates your membership, and we look forward to working together as we move resiliently into a new year.

Christina Peusch, *Executive Director* and the Maryland State Child Care Association *Board of Directors*
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