

Leveraging NAEYC Accreditation to Sustain and Scale-up High-Quality Early Learning

Susan Hedges, NAEYC
Jessie Watson, New Horizon Academy
Minnesota Rural Education Association
November 16, 2015

Session Outcomes

- Understand ways in which NAEYC accreditation supports quality improvement in early learning environments
- Learn how NAEYC is already at work in Minnesota communities as a trusted, cost-effective partner for achieving ECE quality

11 Reasons to Better Leverage NAEYC Accreditation



#1 Happy 30th Birthday! NAEYC Accreditation is Stable and Steady



#2 NAEYC Accreditation is Comprehensive on Quality

- ✓ Learning environment
- ✓ Teaching practices
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Staff qualifications
- ✓ Health and safety
- ✓ Program administration
- ✓ Curriculum
- ✓ Child assessment
- ✓ Family & community



#3 NAEYC Accreditation is Reliable, Valid and Consistent

- 95% reliability rate among program quality assessors
- Standards and Criteria developed by panels of early education leaders
- Accreditation process from start to finish guarantees fair and consistent evaluation



#4 NAEYC Accreditation is taking Quality to Scale in MN and other states!

State/District	Total Number of Child Care Centers <small>2014 Child Care Aware of America State Facts</small>	Programs Demonstrating High-Quality via NAEYC Accreditation <small>6% Nationally</small>
New Mexico	798	11% (89)
Indiana	1411	12% (167)
Hawaii	693	15% (107)
Connecticut	1714	25% (433)
Massachusetts	2608	30% (782)
District of Columbia	299	37% (110)
Minnesota	1036	41% (421)

Seamless QRIS entry, equitable pathways, accessible resources, and meaningful incentives are key.

#5 NAEYC Accreditation is an accelerated pathway in MN's QRIS

- MN accredited programs earn a 4-Star Parent Aware rating with minimal extra paperwork
- At least other 30 states and DC reference NAEYC accreditation in their QRISs
- States build on NAEYC's brand ownership, loyalty, trust, and familiarity that exist with ECE professionals
- Degree of alignment, reciprocity, and incentives varies



#6 NAEYC Accreditation is a Ready-to-Go Resource for Program Improvement

Components of Program Improvement Systems	Embedded in NAEYC Accreditation**	Reliant on States
1. Quality standards for programs and practitioners	✓	
2. Assessment and accountability systems	✓	
3. On-the-ground supports and resources	(training, publications, staff support, self-assessment tools, and resources)	✓
4. Meaningful incentives and rewards		✓
5. Consumer engagement and outreach	✓	✓

**Based on current fee model, \$650 flat rate per year for accredited programs with up to 120 children; \$55 per month

#7 NAEYC Accreditation is a Budget-Efficient Resource for States or Districts

Program Improvement Components	Mock Budget A: \$10 Million Stand-alone Model	Mock Budget B: \$10 Million NAEYC Leveraged Model
1. Standards	\$2 Million	\$0.5 Million ↓
2. Assessment	\$3 Million	\$0.5 Million ↓
3. On-the-ground supports*	\$2 Million	\$3 Million ↑
4. Incentives and rewards*	\$2 Million	\$4.5 Million ↑
5. Consumer engagement*	\$1 Million	\$1.5 Million ↑

*Drives scale and quality

#8 NAEYC Accreditation is Rigorous, Yet Agile & Flexible

Current Features

- Centralized billing and invoicing
- Onsite training
- Unique program structures
- QRIS and accreditation alignment
- Custom status reports

More in the Pipeline

- Enhanced user experience
- Streamlined approach
 - Focused site visit tools
 - Tiered content
 - Clearer stepwise process
- Site visits on demand
- Reciprocity agreements

#9 NAEYC Accreditation Positively Impacts Child Outcomes

Minnesota

- Almost twice as many children in the accredited child care center sample were rated as “Proficient” or school ready as compared to the statewide 2003 Minnesota School Readiness Study.
- Children from lower income families performed the same as their higher income counterparts.

School Readiness in Child Care Settings: A Developmental Assessment of Children in 22 Accredited Child Care Centers
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Boston Public Schools

- Programs engaged in the accreditation process scored more than a point higher on several quality measures than programs not engaged in the process.
- Preschool and kindergarten children in Boston Public Schools engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process had significantly higher vocabulary score gains from fall to spring.

Boston's Rapid Expansion of Public School-Based Preschool
Boston Public Schools, Department of Early Childhood Education

#10 NAEYC Accreditation Positively Impacts Program Quality

Sharing the New Horizon Academy Story

Jessie Watson
District Manager





New Horizon Academy: Overview

At New Horizon Academy, 100 percent of our eligible programs in Minnesota are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the recognized gold standard in the early education industry.

Our schools care for approximately 8,000 children from 6 weeks through the end of 4th grade.

We employ nearly 2,000 staff.

Our company includes:

- 60 New Horizon Academy centers in Minnesota
- 6 Kinderberry Hill Child Development Centers
- 4 centers in Idaho that are currently preparing to submit applications

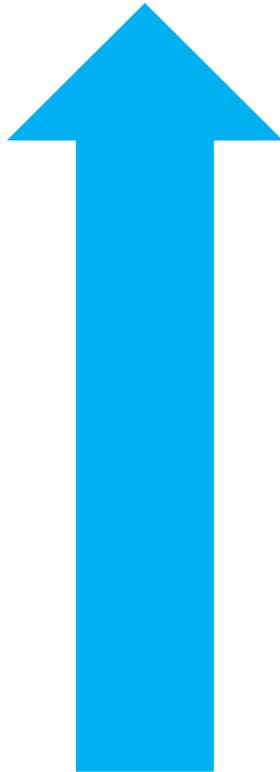
This is an accomplishment we are confident no other child care provider of our size has ever achieved.

New Horizon in Minnesota has 62 nationally-accredited centers.
We also have four centers that have recently opened that are currently undergoing the process..



Impact of Accreditation on New Horizon

Accredited vs. Non-accredited Centers



Increased family retention

Higher occupancy

Increased overall profitability

Increased director stability
leading to lower staff turnover

Increased quality programs





For New Horizon Academy, it's about PRIDE!

- Pride in the quality of our programs and level of care that we offer each child
- Pride in achieving the goal of 100% accreditation in Minnesota
- Pride in the teamwork/camaraderie that is strengthened through this process
- Pride in maintaining the accreditation standards and criteria in our day to day operations

#11 NAEYC is Eager to Partner

- Public commitment to positioning accreditation as a resource to build state pre-K and QRIS systems
- Let's explore partnership opportunities
- Provide feedback about the accreditation process

Contact:

Kristen Johnson
Senior Director,

NAEYC Academy for Early
Childhood Program Accreditation

kjohnson@naeyc.org

202-350-8825