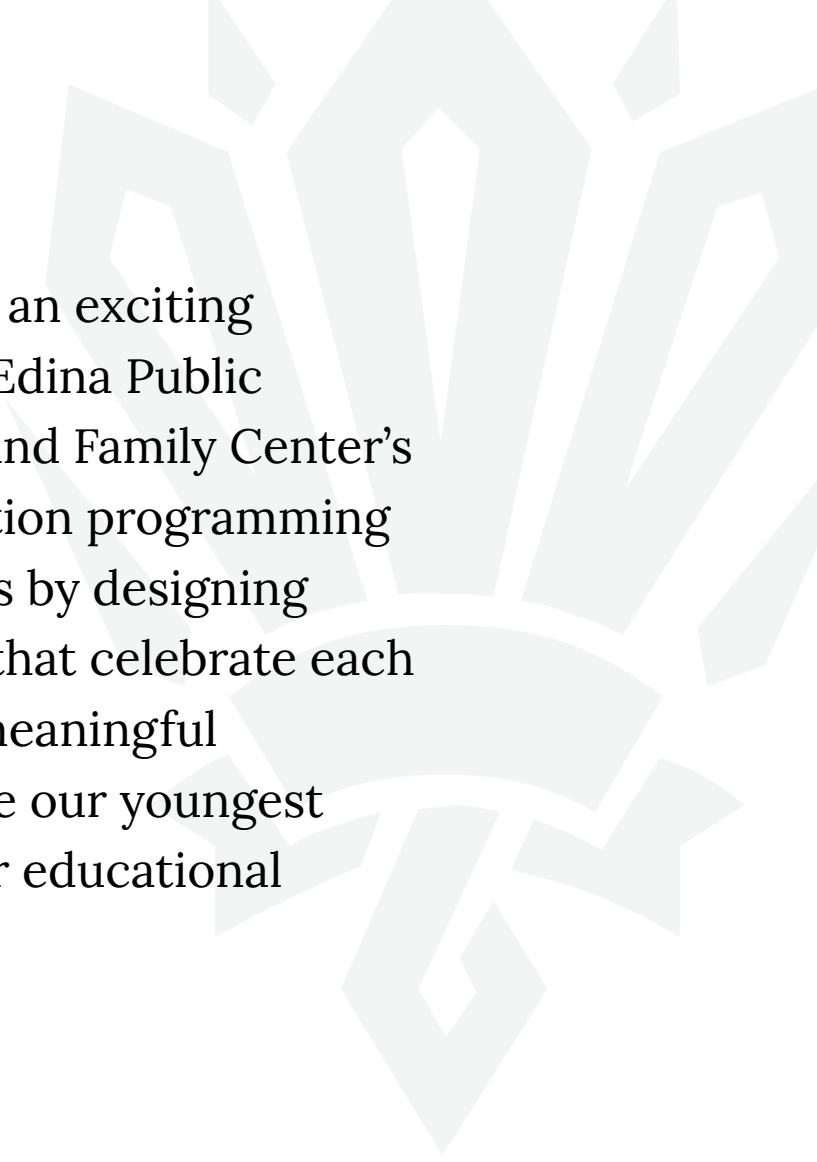


Early Learning & Family Center Action Plan

2025–2026





This action plan outlines an exciting opportunity to evaluate Edina Public Schools' Early Learning and Family Center's facility needs and education programming to honor families' dreams by designing spaces and experiences that celebrate each child's curiosity, foster meaningful connections, and prepare our youngest learners to thrive in their educational journey ahead.

Executive Summary

Edina Public Schools seeks School Board approval to proceed with Phase 2 of our Early Learning and Family Center assessment during the 2025-2026 school year. This systematic exploration and community input process will identify strategic opportunities to ensure Edina as Minnesota's top early learning program.

What We're Requesting: Authorization to engage in comprehensive stakeholder feedback, facility analysis, and programming evaluation through established assessment methods.

Timeline: Phase 2 implementation throughout 2025-2026, with final recommendations presented to the School Board by spring 2026.

Expected Outcome: Data-driven recommendations for facility enhancements and programming innovations that will continue to ensure Edina as the top early childhood education program in Minnesota.

Current Status: Phase 1 foundation work (July 2024-August 2025) has been completed, including an initial architectural assessment, community surveys with over 750 responses, adapted communication K-12 protocols to welcome our families

back to school, and facility improvements including new turf, a new gymnasium mural with animals that represent each child's classroom, fresh paint, and updated furniture in public facing spaces.

Purpose and Vision

Edina Public Schools is committed to providing a dynamic learning community that delivers educational excellence to our youngest learners and their families. The Early Learning and Family Center embodies this commitment by meeting each child where they are academically and socially, then facilitating their next steps toward a successful kindergarten transition. Our Center fosters a caring and inclusive environment where expert licensed teachers, specialists, and Early Childhood and Family Educators deliver high-quality instruction tailored to each child's developmental needs, while providing support to families.

This evaluation plan aligns with the district's 2020–2030 Strategic Plan Strategy A.5. *to provide robust early childhood education by increasing participation in district Early Learning programming to ensure alignment with kindergarten readiness skills*, Strategy C.5. *to create environments that are conducive to learning and facilitate constructive student interaction*, Strategy D.1. *to identify, develop, and recognize adult leaders throughout the district*, and Strategy E.2. *to build upon robust community education offerings for all learners (PreK-12)*. This comprehensive review encompasses physical infrastructure, programming, learning environments, and family engagement.

As the premier comprehensive early learning through grade 12 (E-12) district, Edina Public Schools continues to set the standard for educational excellence. To maintain our position as the state leader, we must continuously evaluate our educational practices and programming against evolving community needs while ensuring full alignment with E-12 state standards in math, science, and reading.

Our commitment to proactive innovation and adaptive excellence drives this action plan, which outlines our systematic approach to evaluating current systems, gathering comprehensive community input, analyzing performance data, and implementing targeted improvements. Through this rigorous process, Edina Public Schools will strengthen its reputation as the foremost leader in the E-12 arena with our Early Learning and Family Center serving as the foundational cornerstone for every child's educational journey.

Assessment Timeline

Phase 1 – Foundation Work (July 2024-August 2025)

- Conducted early assessment of current Early Learning and Family Center facility with Wold Architects
- Reviewed current programming by taking an inventory of assessment, curriculum, and material resources
- Implemented ThoughtExchange survey gathering over 750 ratings from 74 participants to understand community priorities
- Program integration between ELC, ECFE, and special education services
- Refined early childhood programming and family engagement strategies
- Evaluated current enrollment patterns and projected future growth needs
- Surveyed families to gather input on expanding current childcare programming to summer 2026
- Adapted Edina Public Schools K-12 communication protocols to welcome re-enrolled and new families back to school for 2025-2026

Phase 2 – Planning and Engagement (2025-2026)

- Engage students, staff, families, and community partners to gather feedback and inform priorities aligned with:
 - MDE’s Early Indicators of Progress (ECIPS), the best practices for early learning standards
 - MN K-12 standards in science, reading, and math
 - Edina Public Schools’ STEAM initiative
 - Minnesota’s [Outdoor Bill of Rights](#) and MDE’s Nature-Based Learning Programs [compendium](#)
 - New generations of parents and their families to understand trends to create in-demand programming delivered through various platforms
- Form stakeholder groups to oversee the planning process with multiple opportunities for input
- Create facility options, cost analyses, and proposed implementation schedules
- Develop community engagement strategy for ongoing communication
- Monitor success metrics and community satisfaction
- Evaluate program effectiveness and identify opportunities for continuous improvement
- Develop a long-term plan that includes forward thinking for sustained excellence

Streamlined Focus Areas of the Assessment

Our comprehensive assessment will examine three critical areas that directly impact our continuation as Minnesota's premier early learning district:

Excellence in Learning Environments - *Creating state-of-the-art spaces that set the standard for early childhood education*

- Modern classroom design with learning neighborhoods and natural lighting
- Specialized STEAM learning areas and outdoor learning environments
- Full compliance with safety standards and accessibility requirements
- Integration of Minnesota's Nature-Based Learning Programs and Outdoor Bill of Rights

Innovative Programming and Service Integration - *Delivering comprehensive, coordinated services that exceed community expectations*

- Seamless integration of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), PreK, and Special Education services
- Advanced team-teaching models and inclusive practices
- Expanded programming options for two-year-olds.
- Significant family engagement and wraparound support services

Strategic Growth and Community Impact - *Ensuring Edina as the destination choice for early childhood education*

- Capacity expansion to serve growing community demand
- Professional development excellence and staff collaboration enhancements
- Community outreach and accessibility initiatives
- Marketing and awareness strategies to showcase Edina's early learning leadership

Assessment Methods

- Community surveys and stakeholder focus groups (ThoughtExchange platform utilized)
- Facility assessments and space utilization studies
- Review of enrollment data and community demographic trends
- State and Edina Public Schools policy and procedural evaluation for early childhood programming
- Architect consultations and facility design evaluations

Implementation Timeline

Phase 2: Assessment and Community Engagement (2025-2026)

Fall 2025 (September-December)

- Launch comprehensive stakeholder engagement process
- Conduct facility assessments and programming evaluations
- Form community advisory groups and gather input through multiple channels
- **Board Update:** Progress report in January 12, 2026

Spring 2026 (April-June)

- Complete data analysis and community feedback synthesis
- Develop preliminary facility and programming options
- Conduct cost analyses and feasibility studies
- Finalize recommendations with implementation timelines
- Present comprehensive options with cost projections
- **Board Decision Point:** Final recommendations presentation in May 19, 2026

Next Steps Following Board Approval

- **Summer 2026:** Begin implementation of approved Phase 1 improvements
- **2026-2027:** Full implementation based on Board-approved recommendations
- **2027-2028:** Assessment of outcomes and ensuring Early Learning and Family Center as Minnesota's top early learning program

Metrics for Success

Following the assessment phase, specific metrics will be established to track progress and measure the impact of our Early Learning and Family Center enhancements. These comprehensive indicators will demonstrate Edina's continued leadership in early childhood education:

Enrollment Excellence

- Achievement of continued growth of resident enrollment by 2028-2029
- Increased resident participation demonstrating community confidence in our premier programming

Program Innovation and Integration

- Successful implementation of learning neighborhoods and advanced team-teaching models
- Program integration aligned with district-wide initiatives
- Kindergarten readiness indicators across all developmental domains
- Curriculum review based on Edina Public Schools literacy initiative and alignment with K-12 science and math standards

Family and Community Engagement

- Expanded participation in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) programming and wraparound services
- Increased community awareness and recognition of Edina's early learning excellence through comprehensive surveys
- Family satisfaction reflecting our commitment to inclusive, responsive programming
- Growth in Early Learning and Family Center parent leadership development at the Center and throughout the district

Facility Optimization and Learning Environment Enhancement

- Optimal utilization of redesigned learning spaces, including outdoor environments and specialized areas based on stakeholder input
- Continued achievement of all Minnesota Department of Human Services compliance standards and accessibility requirements
- Implementation of innovative learning neighborhoods that serve as a model for other districts

Professional Excellence and Collaboration

- Staff collaboration and professional development outcomes through dedicated Professional Learning Community spaces
- Team-teaching implementation demonstrating our commitment to inclusive practices
- Staff retention and satisfaction in our early learning environment

Student Outcomes and School Readiness

- Kindergarten transition success rates and developmental milestone achievement
- Demonstrated academic and social-emotional growth aligned with Early Indicators of Progress (ECIPS)
- Outcomes for diverse learners, including English Learners and students receiving special education services

Closing Statement

The proposed evaluation plan addresses current opportunities while ensuring Edina at the forefront of early childhood education innovation. Through physical environments, expanded programming options, and family engagement services, we will continue to set the standard that other districts aspire to achieve.

With the support of our school board, active engagement from our community, and guidance from our expert teachers and team members using educational best practices, Edina Public Schools remains committed to developing and implementing strategies that are equitable, innovative, and highly effective. The Early Learning and Family Center will continue to serve as the cornerstone of educational excellence, ensuring that every child receives the premier early learning experience that prepares them for lifelong success.

With engagement from our Early Learning and Family Center team, school communities, and guidance from the School Board, we are committed to developing thoughtful strategies that are fair, inclusive, and effective. The Early Learning and Family Center will serve as the cornerstone for our youngest learners' success and strengthen our community's investment in early childhood education for generations to come.