

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 19-34; Rescinding Executive Order 11-05

Placing Children at the Center of Government

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Children unite us. They are our future, and the overall wellbeing of our state depends on the success of our youngest Minnesotans. To ensure Minnesota is a top place to live, our state needs to focus on preparing the next generation of Minnesotans to work and lead in a rapidly changing world.

Although Minnesota is ranked as a top state to live and work, this is not yet true for every Minnesotan. Today race, zip code, and income are too often determinants of opportunity. Our systems have not led to equitable outcomes for our children—especially our children of color, indigenous children, and children in greater Minnesota. And there are opportunities to improve the effectiveness of service delivery in our current systems to children and families who need them most.

The work of improving outcomes, promoting equity, and bridging the opportunity gap is not the work of one state agency. It is a mission for all and a collective effort that requires coordination, collaboration, innovation, and focus across state agencies to apply a data-driven, results-oriented approach to align programs and activities with children and families at the center. This alignment of resources, data, and policy should bring forth additional support for key investments in children. Research points to the importance of taking a whole family approach, meaning our systems must focus on services and opportunities for the child as well as the adults in their lives.

Minnesota's rich history of public-private collaboration is also a powerful tool to help address the needs of Minnesota's children. Meaningful public-private collaboration can play an important role in ensuring that best practices are utilized, community voices are heard and responded to, and private sector resources are maximally leveraged.

Additionally, the engagement of children, families, local governments, Tribal Nations, and communities is critical for learning, accountability, and action in ensuring the systems serving children and families provide what is needed for each and every child to thrive.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. The Children’s Cabinet, established under Minnesota Statutes 2018, Section 4.045, is charged with taking a data-driven and results-oriented approach to coordinating, streamlining, and aligning programs and strategies. It is also charged with promoting action and accountability to ensure that each and every Minnesota child, no matter their race or zip code, are prepared to participate in the state’s future workforce and to be the leaders of tomorrow. By aligning programs and strategies, the Cabinet will seek to create a more efficient and effective government to achieve the objectives of this Executive Order.
2. The Children’s Cabinet will examine programs, policies, practices, and services to ensure that Minnesota promotes equity for children and families—and make recommendations on how to improve Minnesota’s systems. The Cabinet will focus special attention on preventing and reducing the need for involvement with the child welfare system, public safety system, and criminal justice system. The Cabinet will work to include the perspective of these families as well as other populations including children of color, indigenous children, children in greater Minnesota, military-connected families, LGBTQ children, and children who have disabilities, among others.
3. The Children’s Cabinet will focus on a broad range of issues and challenges, informed by children, youth, family, and community priorities. The Cabinet will utilize a results-based accountability lens in four priority areas:
 - a. Healthy beginnings (beginning with the prenatal period)
 - b. Child care and education (beginning with early childhood)
 - c. Mental health and well-being
 - d. Housing stability for children, youth, and families
4. The Children’s Cabinet members will have the roles, responsibilities, and support to target and take action to fulfill the Cabinet’s charge. The members will engage and bring forth to the Cabinet needs of children and families and consider these priorities in their agencies’ work, utilizing the Cabinet as a place for cross-agency governance and leadership.
5. The Children’s Cabinet will consist of:
 - a. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor
 - b. Per statute, the Commissioners of the following agencies:
 - i. Department of Administration
 - ii. Department of Corrections

- iii. Department of Education
 - iv. Department of Employment and Economic Development
 - v. Department of Health
 - vi. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
 - vii. Department of Human Services
 - viii. Department of Management and Budget
 - ix. Department of Public Safety
 - x. Department of Transportation
- c. To fulfill the mission of placing children at the center of government, the following agencies will also participate in the work of the Children’s Cabinet:
- i. Department of Agriculture
 - ii. Department of Commerce
 - iii. Office of Higher Education
 - iv. Department of Human Rights
 - v. Department of Labor & Industry
 - vi. Metropolitan Council
 - vii. Department of Military Affairs
 - viii. Minnesota IT Services
 - ix. Department of Natural Resources
 - x. Department of Revenue
 - xi. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board
 - xii. Pollution Control Agency
- d. A senior leadership team consisting of cross-agency staff comprised of agency leadership from all participating agencies, designated by the Commissioners.
6. The Children’s Cabinet will be informed by and engage with children and families, the state’s partners and administrators who serve them, and other community

organizations and leaders. This engagement will include dialogue with existing state advisory bodies focused on work related to the Children’s Cabinet.

7. The Department of Management and Budget will provide staffing and administrative support to the Children’s Cabinet.
8. The Governor’s Children’s Cabinet Advisory Council (“Advisory Council”) is established.
9. The Advisory Council will be comprised of up to 15 leaders appointed by the Governor. The Advisory Council will focus on equity and addressing the opportunity gap from a whole family, whole system approach. The Advisory Council is charged to:
 - a. Engage with community, business, expert, and advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders—including children and families—to inform recommendations and provide stakeholders with updates on the Advisory Council’s recommendations.
 - b. Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among child development services targeting children and families, and meeting the basic needs of Minnesota families, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for funding and administering such programs and public-private partnerships.
 - c. Promote equity by examining programs, policies, and practices to ensure that they do not deepen the disparities experienced by children of color, indigenous children, and children in greater Minnesota.
 - d. The Advisory Council will seek to have representation from the following groups:
 - i. Individuals with the perspective of children and families
 - ii. People of color, indigenous people, people in greater Minnesota, military-connected families, families with children who have disabilities, and LGBTQ families
 - iii. Administrators, counties, tribes and school districts serving children, youth, and families
10. The Department of Management and Budget will provide staffing and administrative support to the Advisory Council.
11. The State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care will be comprised of up to 15 members, including those set forth in Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.141 and Public Law 110-134, and additional members as appointed by the Governor.

12. The State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care will continue its work as set forth under Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.141 and Public Law 110-134 and provide counsel to the Advisory Council and Children's Cabinet.

13. Executive Order 11-05, as amended by Executive Order 19-29, is rescinded.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

Signed on August 7, 2019.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

