



SAINT PAUL FEDERATION
OF EDUCATORS LOCAL 28

Whether we are white, black, or brown, every family, child, parent, provider and teacher in Saint Paul deserves to have an affordable, accessible and culturally relevant childcare system that honors every person's dignity and allows everyone to thrive.

SPARK and The Saint Paul Federation of Educators recognize the crisis our St. Paul families are facing because the cost and accessibility of childcare is unattainable for so many. Both groups recognize the fact that Minnesota's childcare system is failing its kids, families, providers and teachers due to chronically underfunding of our public programs. We have a shared goal to shift Minnesota's childcare system to be seen and accessed as a public good for all, and we understand that not only are there different paths to achieve that goal, but that there is also value in multiple approaches. While we appreciate the efforts of SPARK, the problem of access cannot be solved without increasing the number of childcare options and must include a transparent, robust system of accountability – both of which are lacking from the current iteration of SPARK.

The Saint Paul Federation of Educators believes that the problem of childcare deserts cannot be addressed simply by using public dollars to fund scholarships for private, and non-profit institutions. Workforce solutions that provide living wages while increasing the number of childcare seats available should be part of any plan to address the very real problem of lack of access.

The recent misuse of funds at a prominent Saint Paul charter school also serve as a reminder that any time public funds are disbursed to private and non-profit entities there must be a clear, public, enforceable process for accountability and oversight, which has yet to be defined for SPARK.

The Saint Paul Federation of Educators is committed to continued engagement with SPARK and community to develop long-term, sustainable access to childcare resources.

We look forward to continued conversation to ensure that kids, families, providers and teachers across race, class and geography have an experience of our childcare system that is a model for our state and the country.