Editor's Note: Your CSEA contract ratification ballot will come in the mail. You must be a CSEA/VOICE member to vote on this agreement. Be sure to read and follow the instructions in the letter about how to complete and return the ballot.

We have exciting news. The CSEA/VOICE negotiating team made up of members from New York is close to reaching a third child care Tentative Agreement with OCFS and NYS that exceeds our expectations in these hard times for providers and working families.

Since 2002, we’ve built a strong union that supports child care providers to deliver early learning and care to thousands of children and families across the state. We have accomplished many of the goals set by our members at regional, statewide, and chapter meetings. Through two rounds of contract negotiations since 2009, we have:

- delivered more than 30,000, $500 child care quality grants to providers who applied;
- established a professional development fund for family child care;
- implemented Affordable Care Act health insurance rebates and vision/dental insurance;
- implemented a Fair Dispute Resolution Process for Payments and Inspections;
- secured Guiding Principles (Provider Rights) to get the respect we deserve.

Because we have a strong base of dues-paying members, CSEA has a robust program to support our members and providers across the state. CSEA/VOICE:

- established the first bilingual statewide family child care resource center to assist with registration, licensing, and inspections; DSS payments; fraud investigations and training; CACFP, and professional development;
- assists with CPS, fair hearings, OCFS license and registration enforcement procedures and zoning issues;
- passed legislation to make adult-child ratios more flexible for providers and families. With new ratios, family child care businesses gained the potential to increase earnings as much as $15,000 per year;
- successfully improved provider payments in more than a dozen counties across the state.

We remember what it was like before we had our union. Do you?

Miriam Rodriguez, CSEA/VOICE Monroe Chapter member stands next to her newly arranged music corner. The items were purchased with the CSEA/VOICE Child Care Quality Grant.

Professional Development is a key to our success

Professional Development is a big part of our successful contract negotiations allowing us to offer training and educational opportunities for child care providers across New York state.

These great programs are open to all NYS Registered Family or Licensed Group Family child care providers outside of New York City.

Follow each link and explore a whole world of opportunities:

- Professional Development Program
  voicecsea.org/professionaldevelopment
- CDA Scholarship Program
  voicecsea.org/CDA
- Tuition Assistance Program
  voicecsea.org/tuition
- Business Online Training Courses
  voicecsea.org/training
- CPR/First Aid for Providers
  find training near you via voicecsea.org/events or for more information visit voicecsea.org/CPR.

Members adopt action plan at child care summits

After months of Chapter meetings and conversations with members at their homes and on the phone, more than 220 CSEA/VOICE members came out to Rochester on May 20, in Albany on Sept. 16, and in Uniondale on Oct. 14 to celebrate our accomplishments, ratify our action plan for the next two years and talk child care with elected officials. We told our story from the very beginning, starting in Albany in 2002, when family child care providers didn’t even have the right to form a union, right up to announcing the happy news that our union has made.

We recognized that working together, we are stronger. We have come a long way indeed!

We learned why it was so important for us to use our collective voice to say NO to the proposed constitutional convention (Con-Con). The Summit kick-started our action in communities across the state, distributing literature to other providers, having conversations with families and on Election Day, providing extra time at pick-up for parents who needed time, to go vote. One of the biggest election upsets was the much needed change in the county executive seat in Westchester. Kudos to all involved there. This victory and the 83 percent opposition to Con-Con proves that when we work together with parents and our communities, we can move mountains.


We enjoyed catching up and welcoming new members over a sit-down lunch. Some folks stayed for the afternoon workshops and headed home with a training certificate in hand.

To read the CSEA/VOICE action plan, visit voicescsea.org/actionplan.

At the “Grow Family Power” training (Long Island Summit) providers and elected officials.

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Exciting Enhancements to the NO COST Dental & Vision Coverage

Dental Insurance (effective 1/1/2018)

Change highlights:
- Coinsurance increasing from 80% to 100% for Class B (Basic) services
- Coinsurance increasing from 50% to 80% for Class C (Major Restorative) services
- Calendar year maximum increasing from $1,000 to $2,500

Vision Insurance (effective 1/1/2018)

Change highlights:
- Copayment decreasing from $10 to $0 for eye exam
- Copayment decreasing from $25 to $0 for spectacle lenses, contact lens evaluation/fitting, and premier level collection frames
- Copayment decreasing from $90 to $0 for premium progressive lenses
- Copayment decreasing from $140 to $50 for ultra-progressive lenses
- Contact lens benefit changing from 15% discount to $60 plus 15% discount

Go to voice.cseainsurance.com or call 1-800-697-2732

You must be an “active” Child Care Provider with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to qualify for this NO COST Supplemental Insurance Coverage. Additionally, if you are currently enrolled in Medicaid you are NOT eligible for these benefits.