

PennAEYC is seeking nominations for the 2021 VOICE for Children Award

The Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children recognizes the critical role advocacy plays in high-quality early childhood care and education settings and celebrates those who speak on behalf of Pennsylvania's children. As the voice for early care and learning, community advocates play an important role in assuring all Pennsylvania's children get the start that they deserve in school and in life.

The VOICE for Children Award is the only statewide award in Pennsylvania recognizing early care and education professionals, who are not paid advocates, that go above and beyond their daily work in the field by being grassroots leaders through advocacy and public policy efforts. Now in its 11th year, the VOICE Award celebrates not only individual award recipients, but the early childhood profession as a whole.

Do you know an outstanding early childhood professional who is raising their voice to make a difference in the lives of young children and families through advocacy? PennAEYC is asking you to nominate qualified individuals to be recognized for their contributions.

The winners will be honored at the VOICE for Children Award Reception and Dinner on Friday, October 22 at the Hershey Lodge.

Nominations must be submitted no later than **June 4, 2021.**

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must:

1. Display dispositions of a model early childhood advocate, including (but not exclusive to) serving as an expert witness, providing public testimony, appearing in media, serving on a board in a public policy capacity, receiving distinctive honors or awards for previous advocacy work, leading advocacy campaigns or actions, working with leaders and elected officials, and/or recognized as an early childhood leader in their community.
2. Be a current member of PennAEYC to be considered.



Nomination Guidelines

1. Nomination forms will be used to determine the winner of the VOICE for Children Award. Specific documentation (such as links to newspaper articles, titles, awards/honors) should be provided if known to substantiate a nominee's advocacy efforts. PennAEYC staff will review each nomination based on the information provided. It is important that the nomination form is fully completed and all necessary information is included.
2. There is a 500-word maximum to your response to why you believe your nominee should be selected as a recipient of the 2021 PennAEYC VOICE for Children Award.
3. Including a biography of the nominee is encouraged, but not required.
4. Additional letters of support and endorsements for your nominee may be submitted. Encourage your colleagues to complete the form and indicate their endorsement.
5. Membership with PennAEYC is not required for the person nominating or endorsing a nominee.

Submit your 2021 PennAEYC VOICE for Children Award nomination to PennAEYC via email to Kimberly Early, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at kearly@pennaeyc.org and note "2021 VOICE Nomination" as your email subject line.

All applications must be submitted no later than **June 4, 2021.**

