

AB 1001

Child Care Planning



SUMMARY

AB 1001 strengthens California's existing early care and education (ECE) strategic planning process by bringing data systems into the 21st century, connecting K12 investments in ECE, and aligning the membership of the local planning body. AB 1001 also addresses existing gaps in ECE by requiring local bodies to identify investment priorities, report on available facilities, and facilitate transition of children between programs.

BACKGROUND

As California contemplates the expansion of ECE, the state lacks comprehensive data to inform, and infrastructure to support, new investments in our complex mixed-delivery system. Various state and local agencies collect valuable data on programs that serve children ages 0 to 12, but without a comprehensive data system, state leadership and local planning bodies do not have a complete picture of the availability, capacity, and need for care among all ages and settings.

Four important local agencies provide support, information, and resources to parents and ECE providers, in each county: the resource and referral agencies funded in 1972, the alternative payment programs funded in 1977, the First 5 Commissions funded in 1998, and the Quality Counts California Consortia created in 2015. Districts and county offices of education also play an important role in ECE through their investments in state preschool, Title I preschool, transitional kindergarten, and after school programs.

In 1997, the local planning councils (LPCs) were established with the intent of bringing together ECE agencies, parents, and stakeholders in each county to identify local childcare needs and priorities. Since then, new ECE agencies have developed, family needs have changed, federal and state laws have been amended, a new K12 system of support has emerged, and new ECE programs have been created. Meanwhile, the funding and structure of LPCs remain stuck in the 20th century.

While LPCs continue to play an important role with stakeholders and providers, they are well suited to address other gaps in the ECE system. In many places, ECE providers struggle to build capacity and identify

space while publicly owned facilities lay vacant. Many communities have unfilled slots at one type of ECE program, but long wait lists for other program types or locations. Local agencies struggle to identify and transition children with special needs from regional centers to K12. Better planning would maximize the number of children receiving services and would help California get the most from its investment.

Under current law, LPCs produce a county needs assessment that is intended to articulate the county's need for child care. However, the lack of comprehensive data, missing agencies that are vital to decision-making, inconsistent reporting, and gaps in scope, limit both the state's ability to use the assessment as a roadmap to improve and expand California's ECE system, and local communities' ability to build consensus around investment priorities.

THIS BILL

AB 1001 improves local early care and education strategic planning by standardizing the needs assessment, linking K12 investments in programs serving the 0 to 12 population, and adding the requirement that planning bodies identify local investment priorities.

The bill also strengthens strategic planning discussions by improving data systems, filling existing gaps in ECE planning, and ensuring that important local ECE agencies, K12 entities, and other county government agencies that provide services to children, and are included in decision-making.

STATUS

02/21/2019: Introduced

SUPPORT

California County Superintendents Educational Services Associates (Sponsor)

STAFF CONTACT

Office of Assemblymember Phil Ting
Christian Griffith
(916) 319-2019

