

This is a message from the California Department of Education (CDE), Early Education and Support Division (EESD).

This is a message sent on behalf of the California Department of Finance regarding the 2016-17 Governor's Budget proposal.

Frequently Asked Questions on the Early Education Block Grant

Q: What is the Administration's intent in proposing the Block Grant?

A: This proposal is not intended to eliminate resources, but instead to build upon and improve the existing early education structure so that children can seamlessly move from an early education environment to the K-12 environment, with a focus on the children who are most in need of subsidized services.

Q: When will the Block Grant be implemented?

A: Our goal is to establish a programmatic structure for the Block Grant as part of trailer bill for the 2016 Budget Act. We anticipate a year of transition time will be needed in 2016-17 before full implementation takes place in 2017-18.

Q: How will the Block Grant affect the Proposition 98 funding guarantee?

A: It is the intent of the Administration to hold the Proposition 98 Guarantee harmless for any statewide average daily attendance changes related to the Block Grant.

Q: Does the Block Grant include additional funding for early education programs?

A: With the exception of growth and COLA, no, the Block Grant does not include additional funding for early education programs. The Administration believes that early education program reforms (i.e., targeting funds to those most in need, aligning funding with local priorities) are needed before additional funding is provided to these programs.

Q: Will private providers still have a role in state subsidized early learning programs?

A: While the 2016 Governor's Budget reflects a funding shift towards local educational agencies (LEAs), it is in the best interests of the state to ensure that private providers continue to play a role in subsidized early education. Part of the goal of the stakeholder input process is to determine what that role should be.

Stakeholder Instructions

The Department of Finance welcomes a rich discussion about the proposed Early Education Block Grant (Block Grant) and stakeholders' vision of what an early learning program should look like in California.

The stakeholder input process is not a legislative hearing so you do not need to register either support for or opposition to the Block Grant. Instead, we wish to collect input regarding what you believe an early education program should look like, with the objective that funding would be targeted to young children most in need and without substantial changes to overall funding levels.

We expect a full house and wish to be respectful of all attendees who come, some from long distances. To this end, we ask that you please limit comments to three minutes to allow everyone who wishes to speak the opportunity to do so. We encourage all attendees to bring a written copy of their comments, or to submit written comments to our dedicated Block Grant email address:

earlyeducation@dof.ca.gov

If you can do so in advance of the first stakeholder meeting, we can make note of these comments and incorporate them into our discussion.

We have reached out and/or have heard from many stakeholders already. We note some of the most frequently asked questions/comments below in order to provide further clarification and/or to dispel misinformation regarding the Block Grant proposal.

Stakeholder Process for the Proposed Early Education Block Grant

The 2016-17 Governor's Budget proposes to consolidate existing pre-kindergarten programs into a single Early Education Block Grant (Block Grant) to local educational agencies (LEAs). The Department of Finance is soliciting public feedback and comments on the Block Grant in anticipation of releasing more details on the proposal in the 2016-17 May Revision.

Finance is open to all comments on the Block Grant, but specifically asks to receive feedback on the following:

TOPIC

QUESTIONS

Age Eligibility, Income Eligibility, and the Definition of "At-Risk"

Which children should have priority for service under the Block Grant?

Program Structure:

- * Teacher Education and Professional Development
- * Class Size and Teacher Ratios
- * Curriculum
- * Environment/Facilities
- * Required Minutes/Length of Day

What minimum standards should the state require of pre-kindergarten programs?

The Role of Private Providers

How can LEAs utilize private providers to help support their pre-kindergarten programs? Should private providers have a role in the Block Grant?

The Distribution of Future Funding

How should future funding augmentations to the Block Grant be distributed among LEAs?

Accountability

How should the state ensure that Block Grant funding is supporting positive child outcomes?

To ensure consideration for the May Revision, interested parties may submit comments about the Block Grant by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 in one of three ways:

Via Email: earlyeducation@dof.ca.gov

Via Letter: CA Department of Finance, Education Systems Unit
Attn: Early Education Block Grant
915 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

In Person: There will be four public stakeholder meetings for the Block Grant. Comments will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Agencies providing similar input are encouraged to consolidate their remarks to a single speaker. Attendees are encouraged to bring written copies of their comments as well.

Friday, February 19, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
California Department of Finance
Redwood Room
915 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Monday, February 29, 2016, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.*
California Department of Education
Room 1101
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

*This meeting will offer opportunities for public input at the following sites:

- Butte County Office of Education
1870 Bird Street
Oroville, CA 95965

- Fresno County Office of Education
1111 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93721
- Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
- Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start/State Preschool Division
Room #109
10100 Pioneer Boulevard
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
- Marin County Office of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903
- Riverside County Office of Education
3958 12th Street
Riverside, CA 92501
- San Diego County Office of Education – Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center
6401 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92111
- Santa Barbara County Office of Education
4400 Cathedral Oaks Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93160

Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
California Department of Social Services Auditorium, Room 9-02-205
744 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Monday, March 14, 2016, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Fresno County Office of Education
Conference Room 101T
1111 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93721
<http://fresno.k12oms.org/1139-110500>

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