

AB 1038 (Rendon) – Family Child Care Home Education Networks

SUMMARY

AB 1038 will codify unified practices and expectations for Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) contractors and providers in a standardized framework.

BACKGROUND

Current law establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide childcare and development services as part of a coordinated, comprehensive, and cost-effective system serving children from birth to 13 years old and their parents. This includes a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs.

A Family Child Care Home Education Network consists of licensed family childcare providers that offer subsidized childcare for eligible families. They provide flexible childcare where there is often no other care available in the area, including during non-traditional hours like weekends and rotating shifts. Largely located in residential neighborhoods, family care settings are also available near a child's home and/or school. FCCHENs receive support from the staff of a contracted agency, and are a promising model for the state to improve the quality of family childcare options in California.

Many FCCHENs share the same care practices and uphold them well. Nevertheless, they lack clear statutory requirements to guide them with regard to best practices, resulting in inconsistent experiences in FCCHENs.

PROBLEM

Existing law lacks clarity in terms of how contractors and providers should work in concert to provide proper education, training, and assessment. Tools used to make quality assessments may not be appropriate to family childcare home settings. Currently, contractors and providers cannot be held to uniform expectations, which can lead to different outcomes in the quality of childcare.

SOLUTION

AB 1038 codifies standards and best practices for FCCHEN contractors and providers, including nutrition and educational expectations, and tracking of a child's developmental progress. Specifying clear responsibilities for FCCHENs will lead to more effective support for the children in their programs, and their parents. Because of this, AB 1038 would help create equity and consistency in the administration of these programs and provide a better quality of care for children in a home education setting.

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