

SB 50

Strengthening the 0-5 ECE System



MONIQUE LIMÓN

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 19

THIS BILL

SB 50 will strengthen and promote efficiency in the early learning and care system in California to better meet the needs of working parents and their children, particularly infants and toddlers.

BACKGROUND

The experiences and relationships of children in the first five years of life shape the architecture of their brain and build a foundation for future learning and success. Quality early learning experiences during the earliest years help set children on a path to thrive in school and life while supporting working parents.

In December of 2020, the California Health and Human Services Agency released the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, pointing to numerous goals that would improve the State's early childhood education system. Among those goals were strengthening learning and care opportunities for infants, toddlers, and young children. Unfortunately, less than one in 5 children who are eligible for a state subsidized program are able to participate in one.

PURPOSE

This bill increases efficiencies in the direct contracting early learning and care system, removing barriers to serve more children in high-quality centers and family child care

homes to give our youngest learners a strong start.

Specifically, this bill would open up the State Preschool Program (CSPP) to serve children 0-5. SB 50 will remove the existing barriers between child care and preschool contracts, allowing providers to transfer funds between contracts and adjust their services to better meet the needs of families and improve continuity of care for children.

This bill will enable family child care providers to serve young children in the CSPP program. Additionally, this change provides more early learning and care options for families and improves the livelihood of family child care providers.

SB 50 will facilitate enrollment for families and providers by expanding categorical eligibility to families who need child care services and who are already enrolled in CalFresh, Medi-Cal, WIC or Head Start; thus, reducing the paperwork and administrative burden on families and providers. The bill provides 24-month continuous eligibility for children in child care, without the need to recertify.

SUPPORT

Early Edge California (Sponsor)
EveryChild California (Sponsor)
Kidango (Sponsor)

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