



AB 1902 Fact Sheet

Bonta Bill Eliminates Part-Day State Preschool Fees

Summary

AB 1902 eliminates family fees for children who attend a part-day state preschool program.

Background

The California State Preschool Program (CSPP), funded by the California Department of Education's (CDE) Early Education and Support Division is a preschool program for children between the ages of three and five years who are from low-income families. A developmentally appropriate curriculum addresses the cognitive, language, social-emotional, and physical development of each child.

California's investment in child development has facilitated hundreds of thousands of children having access in their early years to high quality educational experiences that improve learning for the child's entire academic career.

Since 2008, the early care and education budget has been cut by almost \$1 billion. According to CDE, during that time period, the number of preschool slots has declined by 15 percent---from 151,775 slots to 129,202 slots.

There is a significant gap between the available slots in child care, preschool, and afterschool programs and the number of children in California that need these placements. One of the principle reasons for this gap is that these services are too expensive or difficult to access, with care costing an average statewide of \$6,596 per year for preschool care a licensed family child care home to \$11,276 per year for licensed infant care. However, families with young children are among the most financially stretched groups in the state, with 43 percent of households with children earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Existing Law

In the 2012-13 Budget, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction was required to assess family fees for families using preschool and child care and development services, including fees for families receiving part-day CSPP services. Prior to the 2012-2013 Budget, families receiving part-day services in a CSPP were exempt from family fees.

Effective July 1, 2012, families enrolled in part-day CSPP services were subject to a family fee based on the most current family fee schedule.

In the first six months of fee implementation, about five percent of the total part-day preschool enrollment withdrew from the program and an additional 2,757 children did not enroll in the program after their parents were informed of the fee.

Solution

By eliminating family fees for part-day state preschool programs, AB 1902 eliminates barriers and disruption to child development programs caused by the fees and provides children greater access to a free, public education for all preschoolers, especially our most vulnerable children.

Support

California Child Development Administrator's Association (Sponsor)
California Child Care Coordinator's Association

Opposition

None on file

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