

AB 752 (Rubio) Reducing Preschool Expulsions

Bill Summary

AB 752 establishes a process modeled after the United States Department of Health and Human Services guidelines to prevent children from being unnecessarily expelled or unenrolled in the California State Preschool Program and other child and developmental care services.

Existing Law

Under existing law, California fails to provide adequate safeguards to ensure that our youngest learners are not unnecessarily expelled or unenrolled from preschool or other child care and development settings.

Background

Recent data shows expulsion occurs frequently in preschool programs across the United States. Nationally, three and four year olds enrolled in Pre-K are expelled 3.2 times more frequently than K-12 students, while California's Pre-K expulsion rates are even higher than the national average.

Furthermore, Pre-K expulsion disproportionately affects children of color. Recent studies show that African American children are twice as likely to be expelled as Latino and white children, and five times more likely to be expelled than their Asian American peers. The disparity is severe for African American four-year-old boys. This demographic is more likely to be 'pushed out' of Pre-K at a time when their need for support is crucial.

Without adequate safeguards for children enrolled in preschool and other child care and developmental services, cycles of inequity will continue to persist for lower income communities. High quality preschool programs are aiming to close the achievement gap between low income students and their middle and high income peers; however, it is deeply concerning that Pre-K expulsions occur at such a high rate.

Details of the Bill

Aiming to significantly reduce expulsions, this bill creates a process modeled after recently adopted

federal Head Start guidelines. The process for addressing serious and challenging behavior includes participation from the child's parents, teacher, and other appropriate agencies, to ensure steps are taken to maintain the child's safe participation in the program. However, in some cases, a preschool classroom may not be the most appropriate placement and continued enrollment would present a serious safety threat; therefore, the bill provides for facilitation of a more suitable placement for the child.

Sometimes, without fully understanding that certain behavior may simply be a matter of where the child is developmentally, the California Child Care and Licensing Program may issue a violation to a provider related to a child's challenging behavior. The violation becomes public record and the provider, even when an appeal is pending, is required to post related reports and notify all enrolled parents of the violation and, for a period of twelve months, newly enrolled families. While well intended, these requirements may incentivize expulsion of children, rather than offering much needed support and interventions. The bill temporarily suspends these requirements while an appeal is pending.

Support

Kidango, Sponsor

Opposition

None

For More Information

Krystal Moreno
Office of Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio
State Capitol, Rm. 5175
(916) 319-2048
Krystal.Moreno@asm.ca.gov