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# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 2018-19 STATE BUDGET INITIATIVES

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **INCLUSIVE EARLY EDUCATION EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM**

(Education Code Section [8492](#))

- \$167,242,000 for competitive one-time grants from Proposition 98. Administered by California Department of Education (CDE).
  - » Only districts and county offices of education (COEs) are eligible to apply. Funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2023.
  - » Applicants must provide a 33% contribution of local resources. Contributions can be in-kind.
  - » Investments should be sustainable.
  - » Does not specify the number of grants or the maximum grant amount.
- Funds may be used for infrastructure costs including facility renovations, equipment, and professional development. Funds cannot be used for ongoing expenditures.
- Priority shall be given to applicants that: (1) demonstrate need for expanded access to inclusive early care and education, (2) represent low-income communities, (3) apply on behalf of consortiums that include local special education partners, (4) serve a broad range of disabilities and serve children with disabilities in proportion to their rate of identification.
- Grantees must: (1) participate in a stakeholder workgroup regarding lessons learned for inclusion, and (2) provide program data and participate in program evaluations.

### **EARLY LEARNING INCLUSION PILOT PROGRAM**

(Education Code Section [136](#))

- \$10 million for competitive one-time grants from the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCBDG) funds. Administered by CDE.
  - » Only COEs are eligible to apply.
  - » No local contribution or matching funds necessary.
  - » Does not specify the number of grants or the maximum grant amount.
- Funds may be used for building local and regional capacity to support increased access for children with exceptional needs and severe disabilities to inclusive early care and education programs.
- Funds can be used for outreach coordinators, placement navigators, coordination and provision of resources, equipment, professional learning, assessment or evaluation tools and licensing, training for parents and families, and specialists including behavioral and mental health.
- Priority shall be given to applicants that demonstrate need for expanded access to inclusive early care and education particularly within low-income and high-need communities.
- Grantees must provide program data and participate in specified evaluations.

### **\$100 M FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM**

(Education Code Section [17375](#))

- \$100 million in one-time General Fund grants to school districts to construct new school facilities or retrofit existing facilities for full-day kindergarten classrooms.
  - The program will be administered by the State Allocation Board.
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- Priority shall be given to school districts that either: (1) meet the requirements for financial hardship, or (2) are located in an underserved community with a high population of pupils who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Unless a district meets the financial hardship criteria, a local match of 50% of the cost of the project is required for new construction projects and 40% for a retrofit project.
- Use of funds includes: The costs of design, engineering, testing, inspections, plan checking, construction management, site acquisition and development, evaluation and response action costs relating to hazardous substances at a new or existing school site, demolition, construction, landscaping, necessary utility costs, utility connections, equipment including telecommunication equipment to increase school security, furnishings, the upgrading of electrical systems, and the wiring or cabling of classrooms in order to accommodate educational technology.

## **PROGRAMMATIC & ELIGIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

### **COMINGLING OF TK AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL STUDENTS**

(Education Code Sections [48000](#) and [8235](#))

- A school district and charter school may comingle preschool and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students in the same TK classroom if the following requirements are met:
  - » The preschool students must be 4 years old.
  - » The provider must continue to meet existing preschool requirements, including the requirements that the provider maintain adult-child preschool ratios, conduct an early childhood environmental rating, and evaluate children using the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP).
  - » The provider must also continue to meet TK requirements, including the requirement that the lead teacher must hold a teaching credential.
  - » Classrooms cannot also include children in their second year of TK or children enrolled in kindergarten.

### **PRESCHOOL LICENSING FLEXIBILITIES**

(Education Code Sections [48000](#) and [8235.5](#); Health and Safety Code Section [1596.7925](#))

- As of July 1, 2019, state preschool programs operated by a local educational agency (LEA) or their contractor can choose to be exempt from licensing (i.e. Title 22 regulations).
- On or before July 1, 2019, CDE will adopt new health and safety regulations under Title 5 that apply to state preschool programs exempted from Title 22 licensing requirements. Regulations for these programs will include:
  - » Outdoor shade that is safe and in good repair.
  - » Drinking water that is accessible and readily available throughout the day.
  - » Safe and sanitary restroom facilities with one toilet and handwashing fixture for every 15 children.
  - » Restroom facilities that are only available for preschoolers and kindergartners.
  - » Visual supervision of children at all times.
  - » Indoor and outdoor space that is properly contained or fenced and provides sufficient space for the number of children using the space at any given time.
  - » Playground equipment must be safe, in good repair, and age appropriate.
- An LEA-operated preschool program that chooses to be exempt from licensing shall use the Uniform Complaint Process (UCP) to resolve complaints regarding health and safety.
  - » Exempt LEAs will need to amend their UCP policy.
  - » UCP complaints regarding preschool shall be governed by modified rules, including the requirement that investigations must begin within 10 days and be resolved within 30 days, complainants must be able to file anonymously, and data about complaints and their resolution shall be reported to the local governing board and county superintendent of schools quarterly.

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## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2017-18 STATE BUDGET**

### **Increased eligibility and access within general preschool for students with special needs.**

- Children with exceptional needs (as defined in Ed Code 8208) are eligible for state preschool even if their family is above the income threshold, so long as all other eligible children are enrolled first.

### **Updated the state median income (SMI) to increase the number of children eligible for early education.**

- SMI is now based on the most recent census data available in the past 12 months. Although eligibility remains at 70% of SMI, the exit point for eligibility will now be 85% of SMI.

### **Aligned reimbursement rates with increases in cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and minimum wage.**

- Starting with 2019-20, full-day preschool rates will receive a COLA as appropriated by Legislature.

### **Increased continuity of care and alleviated administrative burden by limiting how often families establish need.**

- **12 Month Eligibility:** A family who establishes eligibility for services shall continue to be eligible for no less than 12 months and shall not have their eligibility recertified for at least 12 months. Families shall not be required to self-report changes in income unless the increase would put them over the income eligibility threshold.

### **For additional information or questions, contact:**

MARTHA ALVAREZ, ACSA Legislative Advocate, [malvarez@acsa.org](mailto:malvarez@acsa.org)  
AMANDA DICKEY, CCSESA Director of Intergovernmental & Legal Affairs, [adickey@ccsesa.org](mailto:adickey@ccsesa.org)