



CCCECE ShoutOut! January Lab Schools in the Governor 's Budget

January 24, 2012

Sent on Behalf of Joel Gordon, CCCECE President:

The Governor's Proposed Budget Threatens to Devastate Campus Child Care/Lab Schools
What CCCECE is doing about it.

If you've been following the release of the governor's proposed budget for 2012-13 and beyond you know it is by far the biggest threat we've faced in regards to child development centers and lab schools on our campuses. I want you to know that CCCECE is aware of this problem and will be working diligently in the coming weeks to coordinate efforts with other programs and agencies to significantly change this portion of his proposed budget.

There is much to be concerned about in the child care portion of the budget and very little of it is worth our support but I want to focus on those things that will most directly impact the community colleges.

The **major** problems fall in four areas:

1. Beginning in 2013-14 districts (and other agencies) will no longer contract for Title 5 dollars. Virtually all childcare services will be made on a voucher basis within a given community.
2. The proposed budget adopts a strict welfare-to-work policy and essentially targets almost all of the child care dollars to support that purpose. The result is that pursuing higher education is no longer deemed to make a parent eligible for services. For most of us providing students with child care, along with our important instructional support role, our *raison d'être*. If we can't justify to our administrators and boards that we are here specifically to take care of our district's student population we are in danger of losing the district financial support that makes our programs possible.
3. This proposed budget contains another 10% reduction in the standard reimbursement rate for child care 2012-13. This change leaves us with less money to provide the same level of service and comes on the heels of the 11% reduction we received this year. As you are well aware many of our colleagues are just hanging on right now and will be unable to absorb another major cutback.
4. The proposed budget calls for the "realignment" of all child development services from the Child Development Division, Department of Education to the Department of Social Services in 2013-14. At the same time the old state pre-school money will stay with the department of education. This provision won't take effect until the following year but the implications are clear that child care is now seen as non-educational and pre-school is educational. This pretty much throws out the last 30 years of progress on bridging the two. I could go on at length about this issue but it is clearly the wrong direction. It also means that the funds will be re-directed to local human

services/social services departments who have no background in early childhood education and no history of supporting quality care and education. They are there just to ensure that folks keep working. It appears that one of the consequences of the realignment is that most quality improvement initiatives will eventually fall by the wayside as there will be no contracted programs. All child development funds for child care would be distributed via vouchers and the quality improvement funds would also go to the state Department of Social Services.

As I noted, there are many other parts of the child care budget to dislike including not the least of which is the reduced number of slots available statewide but the ones listed above are existential threats to campus child care and lab schools.

What CCCECE Will Be Doing:

- CCCECE is prepared to join the fight against these budget proposals. We will be joining efforts with the other programs and agencies across the state to make our voices heard. We will attend budget hearings and help the legislators understand what I believe is an unintended consequence of this budget, i.e., the total undermining of campus child care programs and lab schools.
- We are in the final stages of preparing a position paper on the threat faced by lab schools across the state and with our partners in EPEC we will distribute it across the state to policy makers and colleagues. There is a sense that the specific problems faced by lab schools are not widely known. This paper is designed to shine that issue and ensure that people are more aware of the dire conditions we are facing.
- In the next few days we will be distributing a link to a statewide web-based campus lab school/child care survey. It's our intention to get real usable data regarding campus child care, lab schools, and practicum classes. This will help us make our case as to the level of support it's necessary for us to function in the manner we are capable of. We'll be distributing the notice of the survey to the CDTC coordinators and our membership on each campus and asking them to direct it to the most appropriate person in the department. Your assistance in making sure the survey is answered will be helpful.

It is our intention to keep you informed of our efforts opposing this budget as it unfolds. If you have ideas or suggestions please let me know.