

CCCECE

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

CCCECE ShoutOut! ECE Credential Position Statement

January 6, 2014

Sent on Behalf of Sydney Fisher Larson, CCCECE President:

CCCECE is continuing to be involved with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's exploration of an early childhood credential.

Mary Jane Maguire-Fong, Sondra Moe, and Kate Williams Browne are representing community colleges in this endeavor. **Please see the attached CCCECE position statement for the ECE Credential.**

It is Time for an Early Childhood Education Credential in California

By creating a comprehensive Early Learning System, California has acknowledged the uniqueness of early childhood as a critical time for learning:

- Infant-Toddler Learning and Development Foundations and Curriculum Framework
- Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Framework
- Prekindergarten Learning & Development Guidelines
- Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide
- California Comprehensive Early Learning Plan

California public schools now include new ways of educating our children.

- Early Learning System
- Transitional Kindergarten
- The legislative requirement for separate Transitional Kindergarten Standards
- Alignment of the Early Learning Foundations with the Common Core Standards

Research supports the creation of an Early Childhood Education Credential.

- A RAND Corporation study in 2012 concluded that early childhood programs and primary grades teaching skills are different from those needed in higher grades.
- Contemporary research findings (Bornfreund, L. A., 2011; Maxwell, 2008; Whitebook et al., 2012) indicate that early childhood education credentialed teachers provide smoother transitions for children between early childhood and primary grades and have knowledge specific to working with diverse families.

California's higher education system is prepared to launch a birth to eight early childhood teaching credential

- Curriculum Alignment Project established statewide alignment of content and coursework specific to teaching the early childhood period.
- Associate of Science Degree for Transfer established a clear pathway to a Bachelor degree and post-Baccalaureate credential.
- Early Childhood Educator Competencies outlined key areas of knowledge, skills, and dispositions required to work with young children.

Other States have developed preprimary credentials for teaching young children in public schools.

- 39 states plus the District of Columbia require lead preschool teachers to have a Bachelor Degree coupled with certification credentials in ECE.
- The two states ranked highest in ECE curriculum standards, student outcomes, teacher quality, and access require a BA degree along with specialized training in ECE.
- Nationally, Head Start requires teachers to hold a Bachelor degree.

Let's take the next step to put California in line with the national trend in education!