

BUDGET FACT SHEET JANUARY 2012

GOVERNOR BROWN WANTS TO SHIFT THE ADMINISTRATION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CARE FUNDS TO COUNTY WELFARE OFFICES AND MAKE HARMFUL CUTS TO CHILD CARE. THIS PROPOSAL IS A POOR PLAN WITH NO REAL SAVINGS BUT VERY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND WORKFORCE.

Bad For Children

The proposed shift will destroy California's investment in early learning and care. Neuroscience has shown that between birth and age 5, a child's brain grows from 25 percent to 90 percent of adult size. Early daily experiences shape the architecture of the brain. The governor's proposal replaces a beneficial, cost-effective early learning and care system with vouchers that pay simply for custodial care. Shifting from early learning and care to custodial care will rob children of a brighter future.

Bad For Schools

The achievement gap between high and lower income children in California is a problem for all schools. Closing early learning and care programs will widen this gap. California has invested wisely in a preschool through 12th grade system guided by clear standards. All CDE contracted child-care centers, whether serving infants or preschool children, are required to provide an environment that enriches learning. This proposal eliminates the education requirement.

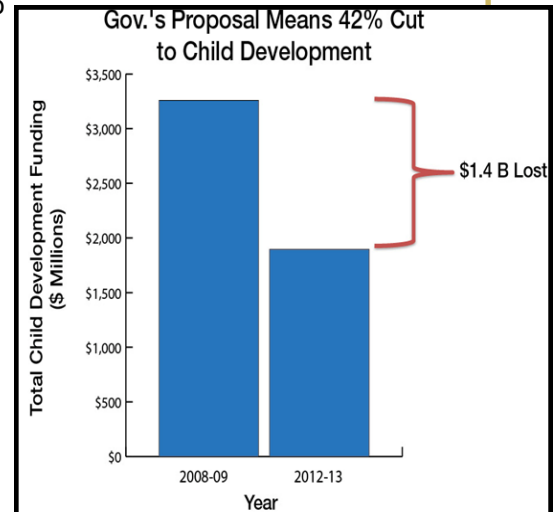
Bad For Families

Families with young children will lose options for safe, stable child care that supports early learning and future success. Low-income parents not on welfare and who rely on subsidized child care in order to work or to attend college will no longer be eligible for child care. Unable to afford child care, they will drop out of the workforce and many will drop out of school. Those who persist will have few options for child care if a voucher system replace state-funded child care contracts effectively causing child-care centers and family-child-care homes to close. Intended to promote self-sufficiency, this proposal risks the exact opposite.

*** Protect California's investment and reject the governor's short-sighted and harmful budget cuts and proposal to move early learning and care out of the Department of Education.**

Bad for the Workforce

This harms generations of Californians. It puts at risk children's readiness to succeed in school -- and eventually in the workforce -- and it disrupts their parents' chance to be productive members of the workforce. These cuts put a severe time restriction on higher education career training for CALWorks recipients, effectively closing the doors for many on career training programs in such fields as nursing, technology, business, and public safety. The closure of child care centers on college campuses will not only reduce the availability of child care it will also limit access to ECE student teaching opportunities.



Bad For The Budget

According to economist and Nobel Laureate James Heckman, every \$1 invested in early learning and care will reap savings of \$7—Carnegie report, 2006.