

# Gov. Brown Proposes Drastic Restructuring of Child Care and Development System, Taking 80,000 Children Out of Early Learning Programs for No Savings

## Proposal:

In his January budget, the governor proposes to shift administration, payments and eligibility determination for all child care and development programs to county welfare offices. This would begin in 2013-14, and the exception would be part-day preschool. The county welfare offices will then issue eligible families vouchers for child care, effectively eliminating close to half of the California State Preschool Program and the entire General Child Care program as they will no longer be contracted with early learning programs, nor have any educational requirements. This realignment will also mean that it will be at the discretion of the county welfare offices as to whether they wish to serve non-CalWORKS families, dramatically reducing services to non-welfare low-income families.



## Effect on Children:

This proposal would remove approximately 80,000 low-income children from preschools and child development centers (State Title 5 requirements). These programs have educational standards similar to part-day preschool and provide critical early learning experiences that help prepare children for success in school. Gov. Brown's realignment proposal would close down thousands of preschools and child development programs across the state. County welfare agencies will issue children vouchers, which do not require any educational standards. This realignment will take children out of preschool and other early learning programs, and provide **NO SAVINGS** to the state.

## Quality Improvement and Support:

In addition to realigning all Title 5 contracted programs to the county welfare offices, the governor's proposal includes shifting funds to improve the quality of early learning programs (approximately \$76 M last year) from the California Department of Education to county welfare agencies. Many county welfare agencies have no experience or expertise in designing programs that improve the quality of early learning settings for low-income children. This shift would likely decimate much of California's early learning quality improvement efforts, which have already suffered significant budget cuts. It could also lead to California losing its Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant of \$52 million, and needlessly undermine the existing early learning Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) efforts happening across the state.

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