



Expanded Access to High-Quality Early Education for Four-Year Olds

The Early Education Community applauds the efforts of the Assembly Democratic Caucus, the Women's Caucus and Senator Steinberg for focusing on the need to invest more in quality education for the four-year olds of California.

This universal goal of increased access to high quality early education, can be achieved in California by investing in and restoring funding to the existing evidence-based, high quality early education and preschool programs; programs which have proven to improve a child's school readiness and school performance.

It is our belief that any expansion should be:

1. A research based model that is developmentally appropriate for four-year olds;
2. Delivered in a way that meets the needs of children and their families;
3. Is fiscally responsible;
4. Continues to offer full-day/full-year educational preschool programs which are crucial to meet the needs of low-income working families;
5. Utilizes the current mixed delivery system to ensure parental choice.

Research shows that every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education produces a 7 to 10 percent annual return on investment. This research and numerous other studies are based upon high-quality preschool programs, not Transitional Kindergarten.

Policy Questions and Possible Unintended Consequences in SB 837 (Steinberg)

The California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) believes that investments into the existing quality early education and preschool programs in California can achieve the same outcomes as an expansion of Transition Kindergarten. Below are some questions we have about SB 837's unintended consequences:

1. **Logistics:** Facilities, construction, transportation of four-year olds, Risk Management.
2. **Local Delivery Model:** State Preschool operators leverage State and Federal funding. How will SB 837 integrate with existing funding? What if any limits on funds districts can "hold" back and not apply to the subcontract?
3. **Teacher Qualification Requirements:** What is the capacity in the community college CSU and UC systems to handle the influx of students who want/need to enroll in the appropriate coursework.
4. **Teacher Supervision Requirement:** What alternative path is available for Early Childhood/ Child Development Professional to earn the Administrator Credential? May exclude community programs that cannot employ an administrator with a credential to supervise their staff.
5. **Programmatic Standards:** There are no statewide curriculum and assessment standards in SB 837.
6. **Extended Care:** SB 837 mentions full day/ full year care for children, how does this impact current infrastructure using these programs, including ASES and after-school programs.
7. **Per Child Funding:** SB 837 creates potential cost pressures in Proposition 98.

CCDAA welcomes conversation about the above issues, and looks forward to working to seek clarification on the outcomes of SB 837.

Contact

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California State Preschool Program (CSPP) vs. SB 837 Proposal

	Current Head Start	Current State Preschool (CSPP)	Current Transitional Kindergarten	Proposed SB 837 <i>(At full implementation)</i>	Unintended Consequences
Eligibility	Three and four year olds whose family's income is 130% of the federal poverty level. (\$19,790 a year for a family of three. <i>(Per US Dept. of Health & Human Services)</i>)	Three and four year olds whose family's income is below 70 percent of state median income from 2009. (\$42,216 a year for a family of three)	Four year olds whose fifth birthday falls between September 1 and December 1.	Available for all four year olds.	Many State Preschool operators have multiple contracts to create an infrastructure to meet the multiple needs in the local community. How will SB 837 meet these multiple needs?
Children Served	Approximately 89,000 children. Capped by federal budget appropriation.	Approximately 136,000 children. Capped by budget appropriation.	Approximately 51,000 children. <i>(Per CA Department of Education)</i>	Approximately 350,000 additional children. <i>(Based on full implementation per Early Edge)</i>	The State Preschool system leverages State and Federal funding. How will SB 837 integrate with the existing funding model?
Local Delivery Model	Public school districts, charter schools, and other public and private entities that contract with the Federal government.	Public school districts, charter schools, and other public and private entities that contract with the State.	Public school districts and charter schools.	Public school districts and charter schools. Subcontracts permitted, but not required.	What if any limits on funds districts can "hold" back and not apply to the subcontract?
Maximum Teacher and Adult to Student Ratios	20:1 teacher-to- student and 10:1 adult-to-student ratios.	24:1 teacher-to-student and 8:1 adult-to-student ratios.	31:1 teacher-to- student ratios.	20:1 teacher-to-student ratio and 10:1 adult-to-student ratios.	
Teacher Qualification Requirements	Bachelor's degree in early childhood education/ child development or equivalent.	Child Development Teacher Permit. (Includes 24 units of early childhood education/ child development and 16 general education units)	Bachelor's degree and Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential.	Teaching Credential and Bachelor's degree with 24 units of early childhood education/ child development.	What is the capacity in the community college CSU and UC systems to handle the influx of students who want/need to enroll in the appropriate coursework?
Additional Staff/Adult in Classroom Requirements	Associate Teacher Permit or Child Development Associate Credential. (Includes 12 units of early childhood education/ child development)	Criminal Record Clearance and Child Abuse Index Check.	No additional staff required.	AA with 24 units of early childhood education/ child development.	What research recommends or illustrates the advantage of a teaching credential for early childhood education/ child development?
Teacher Supervision Requirements	Bachelor's degree in early childhood education/ child development or equivalent.	Child Development Site Supervisor Permit. (Includes AA in child development plus 6 admin and 2 adult supervision units)	School principal. (Includes Administrative Services Credential)	School principal. (Includes Administrative Services Credential)	What alternative path is available for early childhood education/ child development professionals to earn their Administrative Services Credential? SB 837 may exclude community programs that cannot employ an administrator with a credential to supervise their staff.
Programmatic Standards	The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, Program Performance Standards and annual self-assessment.	California's Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks.	Locally developed, modified Kindergarten curriculum.	To be developed based upon California's Preschool Learning Foundations and alignment with Kindergarten education content standards.	There is a statewide standard for State Preschool programs, to be developmentally appropriate, research based and tied to a child assessment. What statewide standardization is there for SB 837?
Expanded Care: Before and After School	3.5 hours per day, typically 175 days per year, and up to 12 hours per day, for 255 days per year.	3 hours per day, 175 days per year, and up to 12 hours per day, 255 days per year. ¹	3 hours per day, 175 days per year.	3 hours per day, 175 days per year.	SB 837 mentions full day/ full year care. How does this impact current infrastructure using these programs? Including ASES and after-school programs.
Per Child Funding – Part-Day School Year	\$8,627 per child per year for 2011-12. <i>(Per the California Head Start Association)</i>	\$3,714 per child per year for 2014-15 based on current law.	\$7,911 per child per year for 2015-16. <i>(Per School Services of California Budget Dartboard)</i>	Est. \$6,000 per child per year for 2015-16. <i>(Per SB 837 press release)</i>	The proposed "special" ADA rate in SB 837 is considerably lower than the current ADA for this program, which could be insufficient for school districts.
Total Cost	Approximately \$750 million. <i>(In Federal funds per the Legislative Analyst Office)</i>	\$509 million. <i>(In Prop 98 funds per the Governor's Budget Proposal 2014-15)</i>	Approximately \$345 million. <i>(In Proposition 98 funds per LAO)</i>	Est. \$2.1 billion additional dollars <i>(Per SB 837 press release).</i> ²	SB 837 creates potential cost pressures inside Prop 98.
Child Assessment	Desired Results Developmental Profile or other approved child assessment tool.	Desired Results Developmental Profile.	District level assessment.	District level assessment.	
Programmatic Review	Triennial comprehensive Federal program monitoring.	Annual environmental rating scale assessment; annual program evaluation including plan for improvement, triennial categorical program monitoring by CDE, annual parent survey.	Triennial categorical program monitoring and Williams Settlement. New plan requiring parent and community input into Local Formula Plan.	Triennial categorical program monitoring and Williams Settlement. New plan requiring parent and community input into Local Formula Plan.	No Statewide system of compliance and monitoring.
Additional Regulatory Oversight	California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing.	California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing.	None.	None.	



¹ Full-day/full-year program - currently eligible four year olds based on current existing law.

² From Senator Steinberg's SB 837 Press Release, citing "\$6,000 per child, serving 400,000 children." \$6,000 per child x 400,000 children = \$2.4 billion reduced by current TK funding of \$345 million = \$2.1 billion additional cost.