

An act relating to the Early Education Block Grant.

SECURED  
COPY

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Available prekindergarten resources should target young children most in need of services.

(2) Prekindergarten education programs should support the specific needs of children in local communities, and local educational agencies should be provided with the flexibility to enact prekindergarten programs that reflect their local priorities and needs.

(3) Prekindergarten education should be developmentally appropriate and instill in children a love for school and learning, as well as provide them with the skills they need to be ready for kindergarten.

(4) Funding provided for prekindergarten education should be administered efficiently to ensure that available funding supports classrooms and pupils.

(5) New funding for prekindergarten programs should be distributed statewide based on local need to ensure equitable opportunity across the state.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to implement the Early Education Block Grant for the purpose of providing access to developmentally appropriate prekindergarten education and positive social and emotional experiences to low-income and at-risk children at least one year before entering kindergarten. It is also the intent of the Legislature that funding for the Early Education Block Grant is provided in the annual Budget Act, with payments to school districts made in accordance with the schedule outlined in Section 14041 of the Education Code, and that prekindergarten programs funded by the block grant are not entitlements. Finally, it is the intent of the

Legislature that funds for the Early Education Block Grant are for the purpose of supporting prekindergarten education and are not used to fund kindergarten through twelfth grade educational programs.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that local educational agencies participating in the Early Education Block Grant use the following guiding principles in implementing prekindergarten programs:

(1) First priority for prekindergarten services is children from families with the lowest income, as defined locally, as well as homeless children, foster children, children with exceptional needs, children at risk for abuse and neglect, and limited-English-speaking-proficient and non-English-speaking-proficient children.

(2) The educational and social-emotional needs of young children in the local community should be taken into account when developing goals and curriculum for a local educational agency's prekindergarten program.

(3) Prekindergarten education programs shall be integrated into the broader educational goals of local educational agencies.

(4) Prekindergarten education shall be developmentally appropriate and delivered in a manner that engages young children.

(5) Services for prekindergarten pupils should include family engagement, screening for developmental disabilities, and referral to supportive health and social services, if appropriate.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Early Education Block Grant should not be funded based on average daily attendance, and pupils participating in the Early

Education Block Grant should not be counted in a local educational agency's report of average daily attendance.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), it is the intent of the Legislature that changes to average daily attendance as a result of the creation of the Early Education Block Grant should not result in an unintended reduction to the minimum funding guarantee established by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.

as introduced, \_\_\_\_\_.

General Subject: Early education block grant.

The Child Care and Development Services Act provides for a system of child care and development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age, including California state preschool programs administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and establishes eligibility and priority for services.

This bill would set forth various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to prekindergarten education programs and funding for those programs, as specified. The bill would also express the Legislature's intent to implement an early education block grant for the purpose of providing access to developmentally appropriate prekindergarten education and positive social and emotional experiences to low-income and at-risk children at least one year before entering kindergarten, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.