



AB 568: Early Learning and Care Dashboard – Access & Exclusion

SUMMARY

Virtually all research to date indicates that Black and Latino children face exclusion from high-quality early learning and care (ELC) programs, both in California and across the country. Assembly Bill 568 will consolidate data on enrollment in, exclusion from, and locations of ELC programs by establishing a statewide Early and Learning and Care Dashboard. This public, online dashboard will host needed statewide data on ELC programs to inform providers and policymakers on equity gaps. This bill will also expand local ELC licensing complaint hotlines to allow parents to submit complaints on racial discrimination or bias.

BACKGROUND

ELC programs have a direct impact in a child's subsequent educational trajectory, influencing graduation rates, vocabulary proficiency, and academic achievement. As a result, various agencies and private corporations collect data along hundreds of metrics on children enrolled in subsidized ELC programs and the providers that serve them. This data is scattered over dozens of county, state, and privately owned databases, and little of it is easily available to policymakers or the public.

PROBLEM

Despite having some data spread throughout different data systems, policymakers have limited centralized, accessible, or usable data on a number of important topics, including the following:

- State enrollment data on subsidized ELC programs indicate that Black children have less access to high-quality ELC programs than their White and Asian peers from the same socio-economic class. Meanwhile, Black children are overenrolled in the lowest quality ELC settings, for which there are often no educational requirements and few health and safety standards. Latino children are under-enrolled in all subsidized ELC programs in comparison to their peers from other racial/ethnic groups.
- Regarding geographic inequities, information about the location of Quality Counts California rated programs indicates that few, if any, of the highest quality subsidized ELC programs are located in areas of concentrated poverty where the lowest-income families live and work.

- On health standards, data from community care licensing indicate that some types of providers and facilities are significantly more likely to commit serious health and safety violations than others.
- National research indicates that ELC programs engage in exclusion practices at much higher rates than in K-12 and that African American and Latino children, especially boys, are disproportionately impacted. Exclusion practices in ELC programs are often the first step in the school-to-prison pipeline.

SOLUTION

Through creation of the Early Learning and Care Dashboard, AB 568 will provide greater access to existing and new information by collecting and reporting data on:

- ELC enrollment, in order to help identify the reasons these racial gaps in access exist and establish targeted strategies to address the systemic, cultural competency, and practical barriers to high-quality programs.
- ELC locations, in order to identify regions that lack high quality programs and create targeted strategies to direct investments that increase quality to the lowest-income neighborhoods and high-need providers.
- Health and safety citations to determine where to target limited resources for oversight and monitoring.
- Practices that exclude children from ELC programs for the purpose of identifying providers in need of coaching and training on implicit bias and multi-tiered system supports (MTSS).

Lastly, utilizing existing infrastructure through the Community Care Licensing Division Complaint Hotline, AB 568 creates a process through which parents can submit complaints about discrimination and exclusion practices. Currently, this hotline only takes in health and safety related complaints.

The Early Learning and Care Dashboard will help identify existing gaps and inequities in the availability of, and access to, early learning and care programs.

SUPPORT

- Santa Clara County Office of Education (Co-Sponsor)



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- Advancement Project CA (Co-Sponsor)
- Alliance for Children's Rights
- Black Men for Educational Equity
- Child Care Alliance Los Angeles
- Child Care Resource Center
- Children Now
- Every Child California
- Head Start California
- San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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