

Petition for Action

Early Care and Education Teacher Preparation



Stakeholder Input

- ◆ Child Development Division at CDE
- ◆ Preschool California
- ◆ The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment
- ◆ Baccalaureate Pathways in Early Care and Education
CSU ECE Faculty working to align coursework transfer units from community colleges
- ◆ California Community Colleges Early Childhood Educators—over 100 Community Colleges offer an ECE program. The Curriculum Alignment Project is working with Community College programs and CSU ECE programs to align their programs
- ◆ West Ed E3 Institute—(E3=Excellence in Early Education)



In California:

176,000 pre-K
teachers, site
supervisors and
directors



In California:

62% of all children participate in a center-based program the year before entering preschool.



In California:

- ◆ Title 22 licensure system (non-public school programs) ranks 46th out of 46 states with licensure programs.
- ◆ Title 5 (state/federal preschools) system has higher standards than Title 22, but even our Title 5 programs only meet 4 of 10 benchmarks established for high quality preschool programs by the **National Institute for Early Education Research.**



Nationally:

Head Start is requiring half of its teachers to have BAs by 2014—in most states that would equal a license to teach



Nationally:

California is:

- ◆ One of 3 states with no breakdown in elementary grade span
- ◆ The only state with a K-12 credential

Nearly all states require specialized training in early education for public preschool teachers, and more than half require a bachelor's degree (which probably is the same as a license or credential).



Mismatch between expectations for preschool teachers and their preparation



Approximately 1/4th
of California teachers
in public preschool
programs already hold a
bachelor's degree



The Big Idea

An early education credential spanning birth through grade three would raise the expectation for what early educators should know and be able to do, and align California's teaching standards with national best practices.



The ECE Credential, to be viable, would eventually need to be embraced by:

- ◆ Elementary principals hiring for TK-3 positions
- ◆ State preschool agencies hiring for their Directors
- ◆ Community Colleges hiring Masters Degree-level Faculty to teach Teacher Preparation courses

Other entities and agencies will need to be identified that would require professionals to hold an ECE Credential.



- ◆ Community Colleges prepare the majority of preschool teachers
- ◆ Curriculum Alignment Project—CCs and 4-Year Colleges
- ◆ Several bachelors and masters level programs in ECE
- ◆ Some blended ECE/MS programs
- ◆ NCATE “looks at” ECE programs



4-Year IHEs:

- ◆ A subject matter-based baccalaureate is uniformly rejected by the CSU faculty involved in BPECE. The need for a fifth year credential is not generally supported.
- ◆ A discussion about an ECE credential **MUST NOT** be segregationist, that is, it must be respectful and inclusive of the multitude of settings in which ECE teachers work.



Pay parity



While roughly 85% of the brain's core structures are formed by age three, only about 6¢ out of every dollar that California invests in education and development services goes to support infants and toddlers.



Investing in
this idea makes
money and
saves money



K-12 has a lot to learn from
Pre-K.

We need teachers who meet
kids where they are and
preparation programs that
help them do that.

