

Summary of Preschool Legislation

There are a number of preschool-related bills in the state Legislature. The following are summaries of a small number of these bills. For a more complete list, visit <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/preschool-momentum/preschool-legislation.html>.

SB 1629 (STEINBERG) – THE EARLY LEARNING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

SB 1629 would establish a Commission to create a state Early Learning Quality Improvement System. This includes a rating scale to help parents make decisions about programs for their children, and a graduated funding model to help existing and future preschool programs reach and maintain higher levels of quality. The Commission will conduct an assessment and analysis of the existing early care and education infrastructure, including strategies to provide that the existing workforce, which reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of California, has the opportunity to meet higher levels of education qualifications.

AB 2759 (JONES) – CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ACT OF 2008

AB 2759 would consolidate and change the state's existing five child development programs for preschool-aged children: State Preschool, Full-Day State Preschool, Prekindergarten and Family Literacy, Prekindergarten and Family Literacy Full-Day, and General Child Care and Development Programs to create the California State Preschool Program. This bill would consolidate the administration of programs providing services to three- and four-year-olds; combine statutory and regulatory requirements for the programs; and provide that children receive either part-day or full-day child development services based on the needs of the family.

Note: It is the intent of the bill authors that SB 1629 and AB 2759 be considered together as one policy reform package and they will be double-joined during the policy committee process.

AB 100 (NUÑEZ/MULLIN) – THE PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES BOND ACT OF 2008

AB 100 would, if approved by the voters, authorize issuing \$9 billion in bonds to construct and modernize K-12 education facilities. As preschool facilities are not currently included in AB 100, a coalition of early education, preschool and K-12 groups are seeking amendments to add \$1.2 billion to the bond for targeted preschool facilities in the highest-need neighborhoods, including those served by schools with low API scores and in which child poverty rates are highest.

SB 1298 (SIMITIAN/STEINBERG) – EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM: GOVERNANCE AND CRITICAL LINKAGES

SB 1298 would establish a data commission to develop a statewide education information system. The data system would support program evaluation to help identify which programs are effective at improving different measures of student performance, including graduation rates. It would also provide connections between K-12 and other systems—such as preschool, higher education, workforce, juvenile justice, and foster care—to promote information sharing and evaluation as students move across systems.