

# CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU

## CHILD CARE FUNDING SOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### Executive Summary

School districts represent a large portion of the child care delivery system. They operate a mix of child care centers and programs, serve a range of children of different ages, and fund their programs from a variety of federal, state, and local sources. It is not uncommon that, at different times of the day, and in different classrooms, different regulatory standards apply.<sup>1</sup> State policymakers recognize that school districts, and other providers, face challenges in navigating and weaving together the myriad of federal and state funding streams – adding local and private funding sources to the mix – to serve families in need of child care.

Assembly Member Mark Leno, Chairperson of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, requested that the California Research Bureau (CRB) identify and describe the federal and state funding sources for child care, and their respective requirements, that are available to California’s kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) public school districts.

This report is an informational tool for policymakers, school districts, and others. It compiles and organizes a range of programmatic and fiscal information about the state’s child care programs, and provides comparisons among programs. While it is beyond the scope of this report to analyze how specific child care funding fits – or does not fit – together, the information provided here can assist state government, school districts and other public agencies, child care administrators, and child care advocates in this task.

In addition to detailed information on, and comparisons among, federal and state child care funding sources, we provide an overview of California’s child care funding system. We also describe major federal child care funding programs in a narrative format and funding that is accessed directly by school districts in table format (with additional information). Tables for child care programs and afterschool programs provide an easy comparison of requirements for specific program components by age. We compare Department of Social Services child care licensing and Department of Education program staffing requirements in the last section.

### Focus of Report

This report uses “child care” as a general term that encompasses all types of care for children from birth through age 12 (or longer for children with special needs). It includes *child care* programs that primarily supervise children, and *child development* programs that have a focus on early childhood education and school-readiness, like pre-school programs. The term “child care” also includes before- and after school programs for school-age children from kindergarten to ninth grade.

## CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU

The focus of this report is on the sources of child care funding that pay for basic *care and supervision*, or what is considered the child care program “slot” or space. It does not include targeted funding that is available to school districts for the myriad of educational and supportive services (such as nutrition and literacy) that are provided to children who are enrolled in child care programs.

---

<sup>i</sup> Ed Bolen, *Analysis of Title 22 and Title 5 Regulations Affecting Preschool Programs*, Memo (San Francisco: Child Care Law Center), January 3, 2008, at <http://www.childcarelaw.org/docs/Title%2022%20and%20Title%205.pdf>.

The full California Research Bureau (CRB) report, *Child Care Funding Sources for California School Districts* (CRB 08-014), by Lisa K. Foster, is available on the California State Library website, CA Research Bureau Reports, at <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/CRBSearch.aspx>.

The California Research Bureau, part of the California State Library, provides nonpartisan policy research services to the Governor and his staff, to both houses of the legislature, and to other state elected officials.