

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 495

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Fuentes, Mendoza, Portantino,
and Torlakson)
(Coauthor: Senator Liu)

February 24, 2009

An act to add Article 14 (commencing with Section 32436) to Chapter 3 of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to ~~preschool~~ *early childhood education*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 495, as amended, Davis. Preschool: data collection.

Existing law provides for the licensure of child day care centers, including centers that provide preschool services. Existing law states the intent of the Legislature that all families have access to child care and development services, through resource and referral services, where appropriate, regardless of ethnic status, cultural background, or special needs.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to post, ~~on a specified section of its Internet Web site, the number of preschoolage children and the number of preschool slots on a state and county-by-county basis, using data from the California Child Care Portfolio published by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network.~~ The bill would require the department to update the data when

~~the California Child Care Portfolio is updated by January 1, 2011, specified data relating to early childhood education on its DataQuest Internet Web site, and any successor system. This data would be required to be updated at least every 2 years.~~

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

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
 2 following:
- 3 (a) A child’s participation in a quality preschool educational
 4 program plays a critical role in his or her educational development
 5 and success in school. Studies have shown that children who
 6 participate in quality preschool programs are more likely to become
 7 proficient readers by the third grade, graduate from high school,
 8 and attend college than their peers who do not attend quality
 9 preschool educational programs.
- 10 (b) Scientific knowledge about child brain development confirms
 11 the importance of participation in quality preschool educational
 12 programs. Ninety percent of brain growth occurs before age five,
 13 before most children enroll in kindergarten.
- 14 (c) Quality preschool education provides a crucial opportunity
 15 to engage parents in the education of their children, and to create
 16 a habit of parental involvement that will last throughout a child’s
 17 academic career.
- 18 (d) Studies have shown that early education and intervention
 19 for children with special needs in preschool reduce the need for
 20 costly special education services in later years.
- 21 (e) Quality preschool education helps English learners develop
 22 their English language skills and meet school readiness goals.
- 23 (f) There is a severe shortage of quality, affordable preschool
 24 education providers in California, and California lags behind the
 25 nation in preschool enrollment.
- 26 (g) *Early childhood education is an integral part of the state’s*
 27 *education system.*
- 28 SEC. 2. Article 14 (commencing with Section 32436) is added
 29 to Chapter 3 of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education
 30 Code, to read:

1 Article 14. ~~Preschool Data~~ *Early Childhood Education*

2
3 32436. ~~(a) The department shall post the following preschool~~
4 ~~information in the Data and Statistics section of its Internet Web~~
5 ~~site using data from the California Child Care Portfolio published~~
6 ~~by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network:~~

7 ~~(1) The number of children two to five years of age, inclusive,~~
8 ~~on a state and county-by-county basis.~~

9 ~~(2) The number of preschool slots on a state and~~
10 ~~county-by-county basis.~~

11 ~~(b) The department shall update the data when the California~~
12 ~~Child Care Portfolio is updated.~~

13 32436. *(a) By January 1, 2011, the department shall post, at*
14 *a minimum, statewide and county-level data on the availability*
15 *and need of child care and child development programs for infants,*
16 *toddlers, and preschoolaged children on its DataQuest Internet*
17 *Web site. This data shall be updated no less than every two years.*

18 *(b) This data referred in subdivision (a) shall also be included*
19 *in any future system that the department creates to replace or*
20 *upgrade the DataQuest system.*