

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 427

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

February 19, 2015

An act to amend Section 8970 of the Education Code, relating to early childhood education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 427, as introduced, Weber. Early primary programs.

Existing law provides various legislative declarations concerning early primary programs, including, among others, that it is the Legislature's intent that school districts that establish an early primary program coordinate that program, whenever possible, with the Demonstration in Restructuring of Public Education program and, where applicable, with the county interagency children's services coordinating council.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8970 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 8970. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the
4 following:
5 (a) The Superintendent of ~~Public Instruction~~ convened a Task
6 Force on School Readiness that prepared a report ~~which~~ *that*
7 included the following findings and recommendations:

- 1 (1) Preschool and kindergarten programs have become more
2 academically oriented with an emphasis on paper and pencil “seat
3 work” and a decreased emphasis on other essential age-appropriate
4 curricular elements such as language development; familiarity
5 with stories, music, and oral language experiences; artistic
6 exploration; social interaction; and large muscle development.
- 7 (2) Assessment tests of questionable validity and reliability are
8 being used to delay children’s entrance to kindergarten or to place
9 them in a two-year kindergarten.
- 10 (3) An appropriate, integrated experiential curriculum should
11 be provided for children in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1
12 to 3, inclusive.
- 13 (4) Programs should meet the special needs of our culturally
14 and linguistically diverse pupils as well as the needs of exceptional
15 children.
- 16 (5) Classroom organization and teaching methods should reflect
17 the heterogeneous skills and abilities of children in early primary
18 programs.
- 19 (6) School districts should be encouraged to develop
20 communication about linkages between programs for
21 four-year-olds, early primary programs, and the primary and
22 intermediate grades of elementary schools.
- 23 (7) The staff of early primary programs should receive
24 appropriate education, training, and remuneration.
- 25 (8) Programs should be offered full-day and also should provide
26 before- and after-school care.
- 27 (9) Assessment methods of children in early primary programs
28 should be drastically altered.
- 29 (10) Parental involvement should be encouraged.
- 30 (11) A public awareness campaign should be launched
31 describing appropriate learning practices for children in preschool,
32 kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.
- 33 (b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction issued a Triennial
34 Report on Publicly Funded Child Development Programs that
35 documents the increasing numbers of low-income families eligible
36 but unserved by limited preschool and child care funds, and that
37 presents policy implications for staffing and funding issues.
- 38 (c) National studies show future benefits of early intervention
39 programs to society and immediate advantages to California

1 employers in the form of reduced absenteeism, improved worker
2 morale, and increased productivity.

3 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that activities initiated as
4 a result of this chapter shall continue without regard to fiscal year
5 depending, when necessary, on continued funding.

6 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that school districts that
7 establish an early primary program coordinate that program,
8 whenever possible, with the ~~Demonstration~~ *in* of Restructuring of
9 *in* Public Education program, established pursuant to Chapter 9
10 (commencing with Section 58900) of Part 31 and, where
11 applicable, with the county interagency children's services
12 ~~coordinating~~ *coordination* council, established pursuant to Article
13 2 (commencing with Section 18986.10) of Chapter 12.8 of Part 6
14 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

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