

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2660

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Dodd, and Eduardo Garcia)

February 19, 2016

An act to add and repeal Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 8780) of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to early education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2660, as amended, McCarty. Early education: ~~three-year~~ *multiyear* plan.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer all California state preschool programs, which include part-day age and developmentally appropriate programs for 3- and 4-year-old children, as provided. Existing law provides that 3- and 4-year-old children are eligible for the state part-day preschool program if the family meets one of several eligibility requirements, including income eligibility.

This bill would require the State Department of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Education and the State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care, on or before ~~July 1, 2017~~, *January 1, 2018*, to submit to the Legislature and the Department of Finance a plan that provides a ~~3-year~~ *multiyear* plan for providing access to ~~income eligible~~ *income-eligible* children to high-quality prekindergarten programs for a minimum of one year before enrollment in kindergarten and a ~~3-year~~ *multiyear* plan for ensuring that publicly funded

prekindergarten programs ~~focus on certain areas.~~ *include specified elements.*

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. Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 8780) is
2 added to Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, to
3 read:

4
5 CHAPTER 4.5. THE QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION AND
6 DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016
7

8 8780. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Quality
9 Early Education and Development Act of 2016.

10 8781. (a) On or before ~~July 1, 2017,~~ *January 1, 2018*, the
11 department, in consultation with the state board and the State
12 Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care, shall submit to the
13 Legislature and the Department of Finance a plan that provides
14 both of the following:

15 (1) A ~~three-year~~ *multiyear* plan for providing access for ~~income~~
16 ~~eligible income-eligible~~ children to high-quality prekindergarten
17 programs for a minimum of one year before enrollment in
18 ~~kindergarten.~~ *kindergarten, which shall include opportunities and*
19 *challenges relating to facility requirements.*

20 (2) A ~~three-year~~ *multiyear* plan for ensuring that publicly funded
21 prekindergarten programs ~~focus on all of the following areas, which~~
22 ~~are most closely associated with positive outcomes for children:~~
23 *include, but are not limited to, all of the following elements, which*
24 *are most closely associated with high-quality prekindergarten*
25 *programs, positive outcomes for children, and sustainable funding*
26 *at a level adequate to achieve high quality:*

- 27 (A) ~~School readiness.~~
- 28 (B) ~~Child development.~~
- 29 (C) ~~Family engagement.~~
- 30 (D) ~~Educator capacity, preparation, and professional~~
31 ~~development.~~
- 32 (E) ~~Program environment.~~

1 (A) Comprehensive and developmentally appropriate early
2 learning standards and curricula that address the whole child,
3 including academic, social-emotional, and physical development.

4 (B) Child assessments that consider academic, social-emotional,
5 and physical development progress, and support meaningful
6 teacher-child interaction and instruction, and program planning
7 that addresses the needs of a child.

8 (C) Sufficient learning time through the provision of a full-day
9 program.

10 (D) Meaningful family encouragement that promotes
11 partnerships between the program and families to support child
12 development across multiple domains, including, but not limited
13 to, academic, social-emotional, and physical.

14 (E) Support for diverse learners, including dual language
15 learners and children with special needs, which may include
16 primary language instruction and inclusion programs.

17 (F) Class size and child-to-staff ratios that promote optimal
18 learning, based on generally accepted evidence-based professional
19 standards.

20 (G) Comprehensive program assessments that measure elements
21 of program quality, including, but not limited to, child-to-staff
22 ratios, teacher qualifications, the nature of interactions between
23 children and teachers, and the types of learning activities in which
24 the children engage.

25 (H) A well-implemented quality rating and improvement system
26 (QRIS) that builds upon the existing QRIS infrastructure in the
27 state, articulates standards that promote continuous improvement,
28 and provides a basis for program accountability.

29 (I) Continuous support for teachers, staff, and program leaders
30 through evidence-based coaching and mentoring programs and
31 job-embedded professional learning opportunities.

32 (J) Well-prepared teachers with training that addresses early
33 childhood education, including child development and instruction
34 of young children. This portion of the plan shall specifically
35 address all of the following:

36 (i) Strategies for multiple pathways to degrees, certificates, and
37 credentials, including support for early childhood educators to
38 attain additional education and qualifications, and strategies to
39 support a workforce that reflects the diversity of the state.

1 (ii) *Recommendations for changes to the Commission on*
 2 *Teacher Credentialing’s requirements for the issuance and renewal*
 3 *of permits authorizing service in the care, development, and*
 4 *instruction of children in child care and development programs*
 5 *and permits authorizing supervision of a child care and*
 6 *development program.*

7 (iii) *Recommendations for aligning preparation requirements*
 8 *for educators working with children from infancy through eight*
 9 *years of age to the 2015 report by the Institute of Medicine and*
 10 *National Research Council titled Transforming the Workforce for*
 11 *Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation.*

12 (iv) *Strategies for achieving pay parity for prekindergarten*
 13 *educators and staff with educators and staff of the transitional*
 14 *kindergarten through 12th grade public education system.*

15 (b) For purposes of this section, “prekindergarten programs”
 16 includes all of the following:

- 17 (1) Transitional kindergarten.
- 18 (2) State preschool.
- 19 (3) Head Start programs.

20 ~~(e) For purposes of this section, “income eligible” has the same~~
 21 ~~meaning as subdivision (a) of Section 8263.1.~~

22 (c) *For purposes of this section, “income eligible” has the same*
 23 *meaning specified for each prekindergarten program, as*
 24 *applicable.*

25 (d) The plan shall be submitted to the Legislature in compliance
 26 with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

27 8782. Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code,
 28 this chapter is repealed on January 1, 2021.