

Next Steps for California

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Building an Early Learning System That Works

Next Steps for California

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1

Build a coherent system of ECE administration

- Designate a **single coordinating body** to unify and streamline ECE decision making at the state and local level.
- Develop a **one-stop-shop** for parents to find high quality care.
- Build a **comprehensive data system** that offers policymakers and administrators actionable information.

2

Make ECE affordable for all children birth to age 5

- Establish **universally-available** preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, utilizing a **mixed delivery system** and a **sliding fee scale**.
- Expand access to subsidized child care on a **sliding fee scale for infants and toddlers**.

3

Build a well-qualified ECE workforce

- Reform the reimbursement rate system and supplement reimbursement rates to **enhance educator wages**.
- **Raise expectations** for teacher qualifications and support existing educators in meeting new requirements.
- **Invest in higher education programs** that adequately prepare early educators for the demands of the classroom.

4

Improve the quality of all ECE programs

- **Raise quality requirements** for programs with the lowest standards.
- Fully fund Quality Rating Improvement Systems to **support required participation** of all state subsidized providers.
- Ensure all programs have access to **quality improvement activities**.

5

Improve birth to 8 alignment

- Develop leaders who understand **effective teaching practices for young children**, including dual language learners.
- Ensure educators **understand child development** and early language development.
- Provide **joint professional development** for educators and leaders across ECE and elementary school.