



# Joint Committee on Legislation

*Second Year of  
Legislative Session 2025-2026*

January 21, 2026



# Welcome and Introductions



# Review Agenda



# Presentation on Purpose and Role of Joint Committee on Legislation (Second Year of Legislation Session 2025-26)

## Role of JCL

1. Attend meetings
2. Review State and Federal Proposed & Enacted Policies:
  - Budget
  - Legislation
  - Administrative Policies
3. Provide proposed & enacted policies for JCL to review
4. Vote on policy priorities for Policy Roundtable to consider for Pursuit of Position or other actions
5. Review Public Policy Platform and propose changes as needed
6. Present information at Policy Roundtable and Planning Committee



## Guardrails for Prioritizing Public Policies

- LA County State/Federal Legislation Agendas:  
“Increase access to high-quality early care and education services provided by a qualified and well compensated workforce.”
- ECE Public Policy Platform 2025-2026  
(<https://childcare.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/PRT-CCPC-Policy-Platform-2025-26-Session-APPROVED-June-2024.pdf>)
- LA County Policy of Equity

## Logistics

- Meeting Schedule:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Month, 10-11:30AM, Jan. 2026 – May 2026
- Location of Meetings: Child Care Alliance of LA - Pasadena Office



# Presentation on Governor's Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget

## What DOES the Budget include

- 1. Preserves core Early Learning investments amid challenging fiscal climate**
- 2. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Child Care and Preschool**
  - 2.41 COLA for California State Preschool Programs and Child Care Programs (CDSS)
  - \$89.1 million investment (California Department of Education)
- 3. Child Care Infrastructure Funding**
  - \$11.5 million for child care infrastructure (emphasis on recent wildfire impacts)
- 4. Governance Change**
  - Proposal transfers certain oversight authorities to the State Board of Education, per 2002 Master Plan presenting potential implications for early learning system alignment and local control

## What does the Budget NOT include

### 1. No New Child Care Spaces

- No new spaces
- Delays implementation of previously committed 200,000 child care slots

### 2. Rate Reform

- No updates on:
  - Single rate reimbursement structure
  - Transition to enrollment-based payments

## Responses to Governor's Proposed Budget

- ECE Budget Coalition
- Other

## Committee Member Discussion

1. Are there any other **high interest budget items** to elevate?
2. Which budget items and/or bills do you consider **top priority**?



# Presentation on Early Care and Education Local, State, and Federal Legislation

## Federal

- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Status
- State and Local Response to CCDF and TANF Funding Restrictions/Freeze

## State Legislation

- No new legislation proposed

## Committee Member Discussion

1. Are there any other **high interest policy items** to elevate?
2. Which budget items and/or bills do you consider **top priority**?



# Identify Top Three Public Policy Recommendations

## Policy Roundtable Discussion Highlights September – December

### Key Issue Uplifted

- Immigration policies and activities are having a high impact on families and staff
- Difficulty accessing affordable infant and toddler child care, particularly for low income households
- ECE programs experience high disenrollment rate of families utilizing subsidies due to time consuming and burdensome paperwork
- ECE workforce needs to be paid higher wages
- Staffing shortage to serve infants and toddlers continues
- Funding based on attendance versus enrollment
- Maximize current resources (e.g., Bridge funding, etc.)

### Intersection of Child Care and other key issue areas...

- Families experiencing homelessness
- Food insecurity
- Children entering DCFS system (25% of children entering DCFS system are ages birth to two years old )

## **Priority #1 - Alternative Reimbursement Rate Methodology**

**Pursuit of Position #1:** Establish by July 1, 2025 an alternative rate methodology that reimburses ECE providers the true cost of providing state-subsidized child care based on Federal requirements; implement the new reimbursement rate structure by summer 2025; and allocate ongoing funding for the new reimbursement rate structure.

## **Priority #2 – Immigration - California Safe Haven Schools and Child Care**

**Pursuit of Position #2:** Support AB 49 and similar measures that strengthen protections for immigrant children in California by prohibiting immigration enforcement officers from entering schools and child care facilities without proper legal authorization.

## **Priority #3 - Early Care and Education Wildfire Recovery & Rebuild Efforts**

**Board of Supervisors Motion:** OAECE submitted to Department of Public Health Government Affairs and CEO Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Relations a request for supports from the State for ECE programs impacted by the wildfires.

## Committee Member Discussion

### What are your top 3 priority policy issues?

#### Top Issues

- **Reimbursement Rate:** X X X X X X
  - Funding Rate Reimbursement
- **Fire Recovery and Rebuild:** X X X X X X
  - Particularly for Renters
- **Immigration:** X X X X
  - Impacting enrollment and accessibility –revamp how immigration is impacting attendance and staff (staff can't renew documents)
  - Needs to address current context
  - Enrollment vs Attendance X

## Motion

1. Implementation of Alternate Reimbursement Rate Methodology
2. Strengthen measures that protect immigrant children, families and staff
3. Wildfire Rebuild and Recovery

## Next Steps

- Provide update to Child Care Planning Committee at February 2026 meeting
- Present recommendation to Policy Roundtable at February 2026 meeting



# Approval of Early Care and Education Public Policy Priority Recommendations



# Call to Adjourn Meeting