



CHILD CARE
PLANNING
COMMITTEE



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Child Care Planning Committee

Los Angeles County

Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC)

Manuel Fierro, Chair

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Vice Chair

Debra Colman, OAECE Director

Simone Taylor, Local Planning Council Coordinator

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Vision Statement

Children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life.

Mission Statement

Lead, build, and strengthen an affordable and high-quality early care and education system for the children and families of Los Angeles County.





Chair



Manuel Fierro
Community Organization

Vice Chair



Andrea Fernandez Mendoza
Early Educator

Please share your:

- Name
- Role as a Child Care Planning Committee Member, Alternate, or Public
- Organization or Affiliation, if it applies



Purpose:

To oversee the Planning Committee governance and reporting processes and review proposed changes to the Planning Committee Member Policies and Procedures Manual.

Goals:

Inform the membership application process and to review the revision of Policies and Procedures to include the 2nd Vice Chair as the Dianne Philibosian Memorial Chair.



First Vice Chair

(Internal focus in preparation for becoming chair)

- Presides over meeting in absence of chair
- Assists chair in agenda development and meeting preparation
- Key advisor to chair on strategic development and implementation
- Provides support to ad hoc committees and consultation



Second Vice Chair

(External focus for community involvement)

- Presides over meetings in absence of chair and first vice chair
- Participates with chair and first vice chair in agenda development and meeting preparation
- Works with OAECE staff on community outreach, membership recruitment and member involvement



Proposed Edit for Planning Committee Policies and Procedure Manual

Changes Made

- Added that there are 3 officers
- Rationale for the establishment of a Second Vice Chair

OFFICERS

There are three (3) Officers of the Planning Committee: Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair.

The term of the Chair will be two (2) years. If the Chair's membership term expires during their term as Chair, the membership term will be extended through the completion of term of office.

The establishment of a Second Vice Chair position is intended to support leadership development, succession planning, and enhanced community engagement by expanding leadership opportunities within the Executive Committee.



Proposed Edit for Planning Committee Policies and Procedure Manual

Changes Made

- Under *ELECTION OF FIRST AND SECOND VICE CHAIR* added a section for the **Second Vice Chair referred to as the Diane Philibosian Memorial Chair**
- Rationale for the duties of the Second Vice Chair

SECOND VICE CHAIR (Diane Philibosian Memorial Chair)

The term of office for the Second Vice Chair will be one (1) year with a one-year renewable term upon election.

The Second Vice Chair shall: 1) Preside over Planning Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair and the First Vice Chair; 2) Participate with the Chair and First Vice Chair in agenda development and meeting preparation; and 3) Work in collaboration with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) staff to support community outreach, member engagement, leadership development, and recruitment efforts.

The Second Vice Chair role is intended to strengthen external engagement and provide structured leadership development in preparation for future service in senior office roles. Since the position was developed by Dianne Philibosian before her passing, it will also be referred to as the Diane Philibosian Memorial Chair in honor of her decades of service to the Planning Committee.

Consent Calendar:

3A. Vote on the Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2025

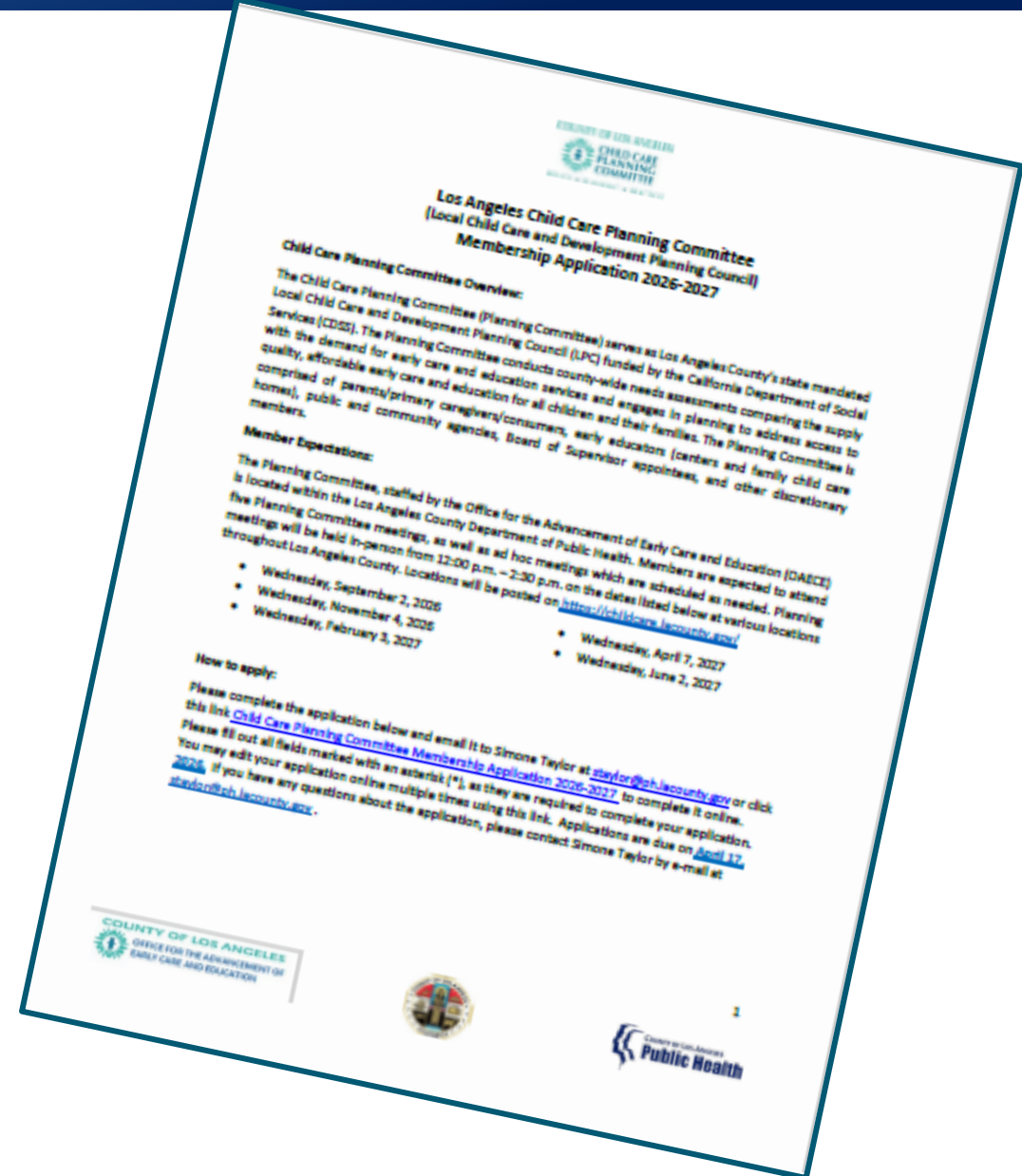
3B. Vote on the Revision of Policies and Procedures to include 2nd Vice Chair



Governance Ad hoc Update



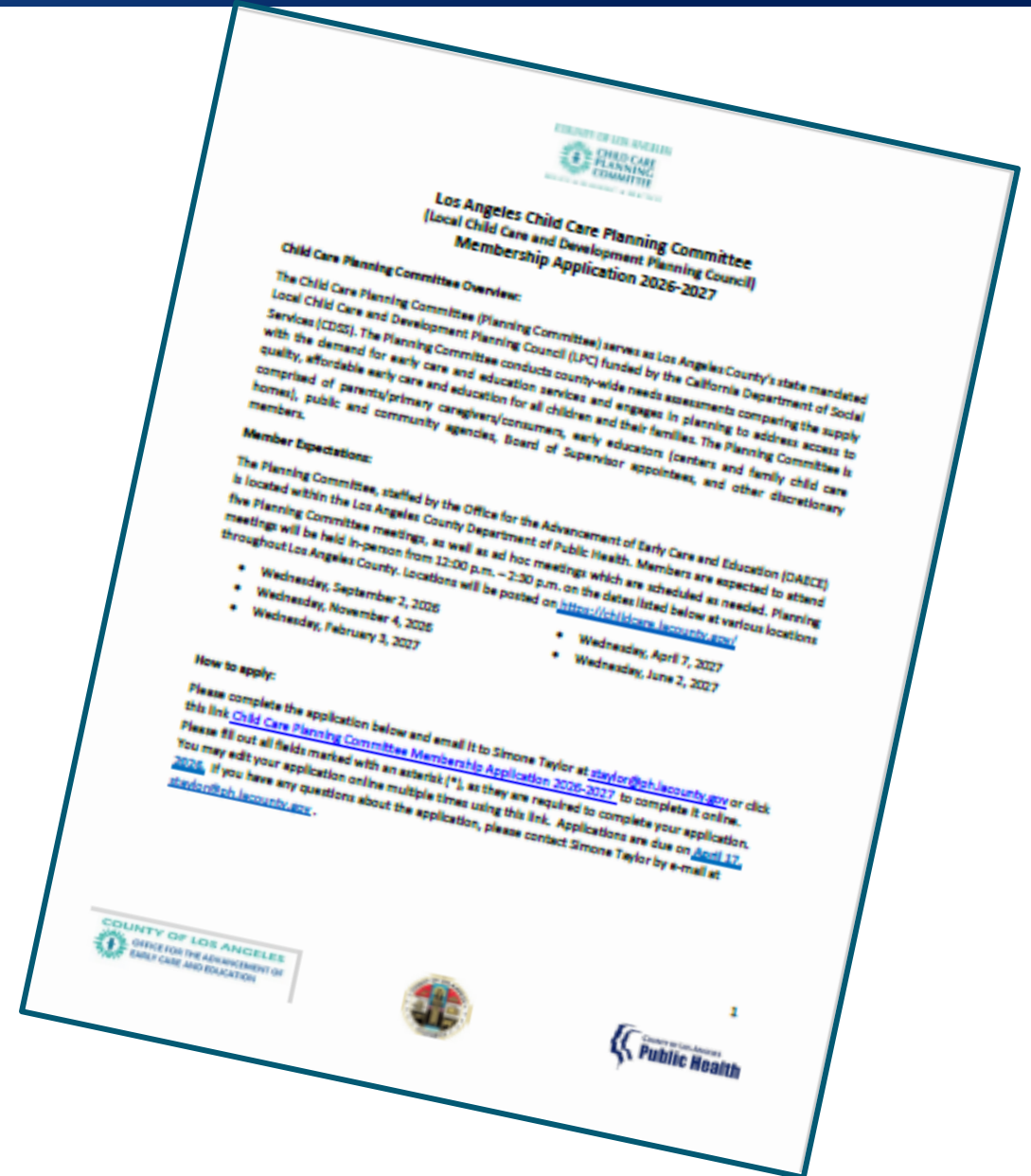
- Membership Application due date:
 - April 17, 2026
- Application Distribution Channels:
 - Quality Start LA, R&Rs, First 5LA
 - Created a parent friendly membership flyer
 - Parent Networks, such as:
 - Community Voices, InnerCity Struggle, and Families in School



Governance Ad Hoc Update




Scan here for the online Planning Committee Membership Application FY 2026-27



Nomination of Officers FY 26-27



- Opening nominations for Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair
- Will send an email reminder to nominate officers for FY 26-27
- Nominated officers will give a speech at the April 2026 CCPC Meeting
- At the June 2026 CCPC Meeting, officers are voted in.


Nominations for Leadership for Fiscal Years 2026-2027
Child Care Planning Committee

Per the Child Care Planning Committee Policies and Procedures found in the Child Care Planning Committee Membership Manual:

Process: Nominations will be open throughout the period of membership recruitment. All nominees will be contacted to ascertain their interest in serving. The names of all nominees who agree to have their names brought forward will be presented to the full membership prior to the meeting at which the membership slate is approved. The election will take place at the same meeting as the approval of the membership slate.

Eligibility: To qualify to be nominated for Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair a member must have served on the Planning Committee for at least one (1) year within the last five (5) years and have been actively participating through attendance at the Planning Committee.

Nominations for Chair

Responsibilities: The Chair shall 1) chair the Planning Committee meetings; 2) help develop the agenda for each meeting; 3) sign all documents related to contracts with the California Department of Social Services, Board letters related to Planning Committee business, and other correspondence deemed appropriate; and 4) represent the Planning Committee on the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development.

Term of the Office: Two years.

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominations for First Vice Chair

Responsibilities: The First Vice Chair shall 1) preside over Planning Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair; 2) assist the Chair in agenda development and meeting preparation; 3) serve as a key advisor to the Chair on strategic planning, implementation, and organization development; and 4) provide guidance, consultation, and support to Subcommittees and Ad hoc committees, as requested by the Chair.

Term of the Office: One year with a one-year renewable term upon election.




Name of Nominee: _____

Nominations for Second Vice Chair

Responsibilities: The Second Vice Chair shall 1) preside over Planning Committee meetings in the absence of both the Chair and the First Vice Chair; 2) participate with the Chair and First Vice Chair in agenda development and meeting preparation; and 3) work in collaboration with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) staff to support community outreach, member engagement, leadership development, and recruitment efforts.

Term of the Office: One year with a one-year renewable term upon election.

Name of Nominee: _____

- **Discussion among Child Care Planning Committee Members**
- **Public Comment**



5A. Nominations for FY 26-27 Leadership Slate



Update on Joint Committee on Legislation (Second Year of Legislation Session 2025-26)

Provided updates on...

Public Policies

- **State Level**
 - Governor's 2026-27 Proposed Budget
 - Legislation
- **Federal Level**
 - Administrative Policies
 - - CCDBG/CCDF/TANF Freeze
 - Legislation
 - Budget



Policy Issues Elevated

- Reviewed issues elevated in Sept 2025 – Jan 2026 Policy Roundtable meetings

Prioritize the following policy issues to pursue:

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

Discussion Question: What would you like to elevate about these proposed policy priorities?

- Discussion among Child Care Planning Committee Members
- Public Comment



Strategic Planning Ad hoc Update



- **Strategic Planning Ad Hoc launched on 01/15/2026**
 - Chaired by Eli Pessar
- **Discussion about workforce**
 - Ad Hoc members reviewed lessons from the past five years (i.e. impacts of COVID-19, funding instability, workforce shortages, and natural disasters)
 - Elevated need for quality improvement paired with resources and higher wages
 - Discussed strategies such as policy advocacy and dedicated funding approaches to strengthen compensation and retention.
- **Next steps**
 - Define priority areas, gather stakeholder input, and define clear long-term goals
 - Next meeting on 02/19/2026



TK Shakes the Field: Will Pre-K Centers Pivot to Serve Younger Children in L.A. County?

Bruce Fuller, Austin Land, Qifan Zhang

Special thanks to the Ballmer Group – February 2026

Turbulence in the Field – A Shifting Mix of Providers?



- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) enrollments continue to grow, serving 4-year-olds in public schools.
- The ECE Master Plan foresaw this... recommending that pre-K centers pivot to serve 3-year-olds (then toddlers and infants).
- The governor and lawmakers incentivized this pivot ('adjustment factors', extending CSPP to 2-year-olds, liberalizing income eligibility).
- Colorful mixed delivery widens even more – the count of families aided by vouchers has more than tripled since 2019.



BERKELEY STUDY – Policy Dynamics Prompt Empirical Questions



- How quickly and where is TK growing across L.A. County?
- Why the pivot to younger children by community-based centers is important for families and kids.
- How are enrollments of 3-year-olds distributed across the county?
- Are centers pivoting to 3's and younger children?
- What's working? What constraints limit the pivot?
- Possible remedies – local planning and state policy.

Policy Brief 2025

- **Pre-K Pivot?**
How Preschools Shift
to Younger Children in Los Angeles

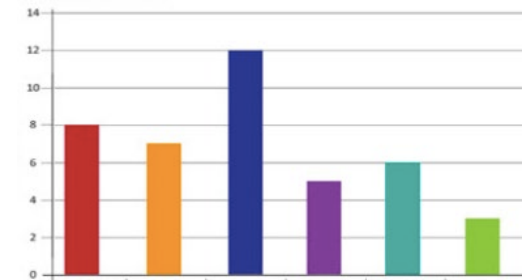


UC Berkeley
Equity and Excellence
in Early Childhood

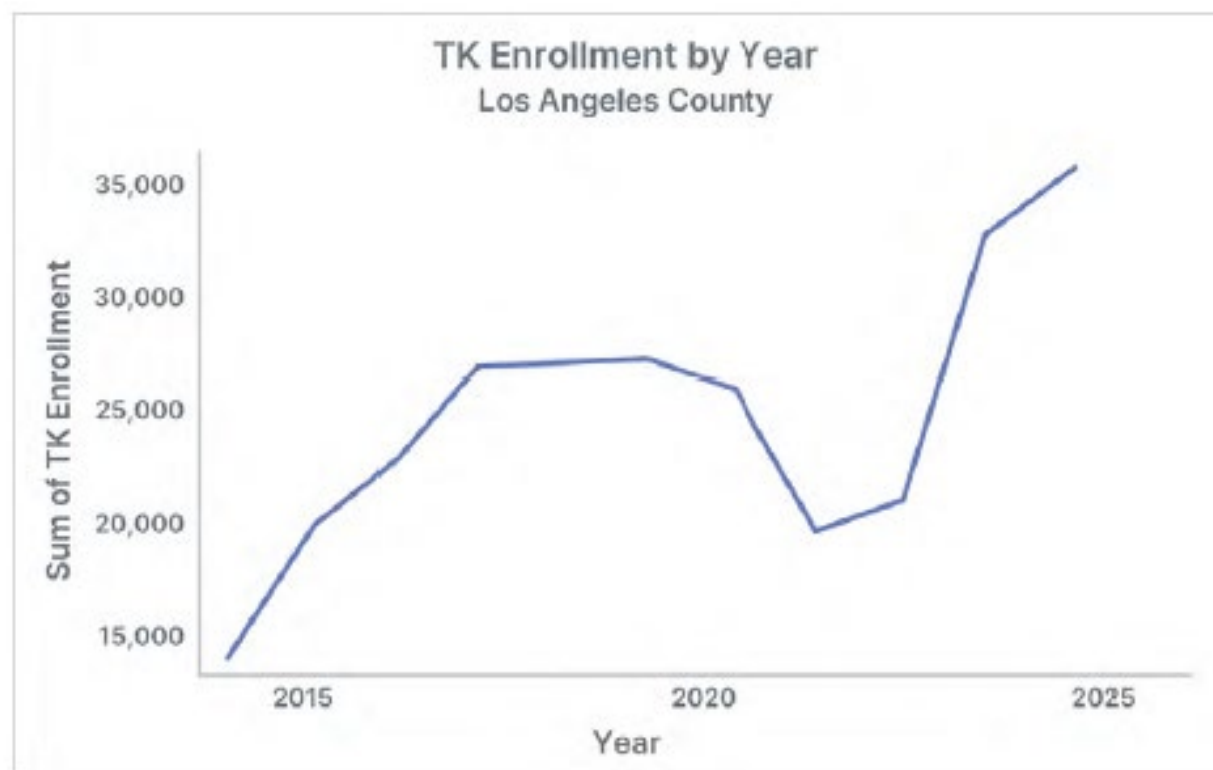
Note on Center and Caregiver Data



- We have been downloading, analyzing CDE and CDSS data over the past few years.
- Thinking long term: now building with OAECE and allied agencies a live, continually updated data system... moving beyond one-off studies.
- Big data holes: Actual capacity of pre-K centers to serve additional children; true enrollments in private-pay centers.



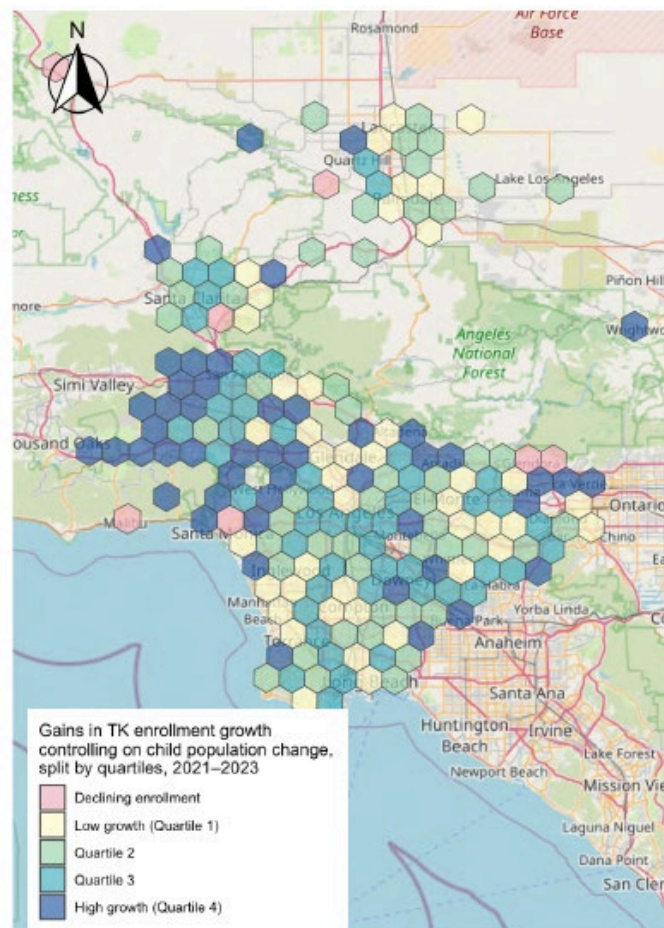
Finding 1: TK enrollments have rebounded from Covid and continue to grow



Finding 2: Post-Covid TK enrollment growth is strongest in middle and upper-middle income areas of the county (dark blue)

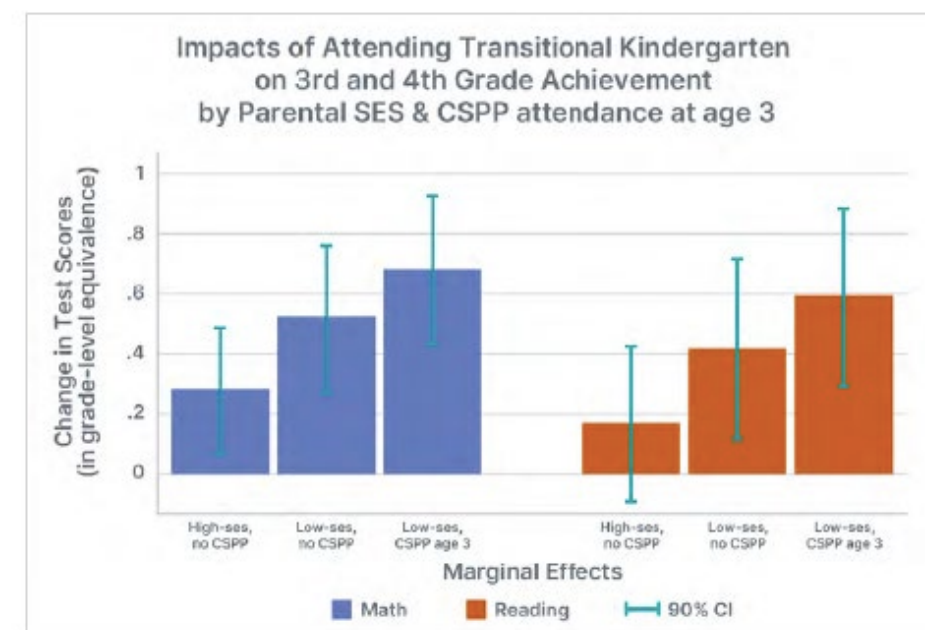
Figure 2. Change in transitional kindergarten enrollment among geographic units, Los Angeles County, Fall 2021 to Fall 2023 (taking into account child population)

Families realizing the greatest savings by enrolling their child in TK include middle-class and affluent families, many living in outlying parts of Los Angeles County.



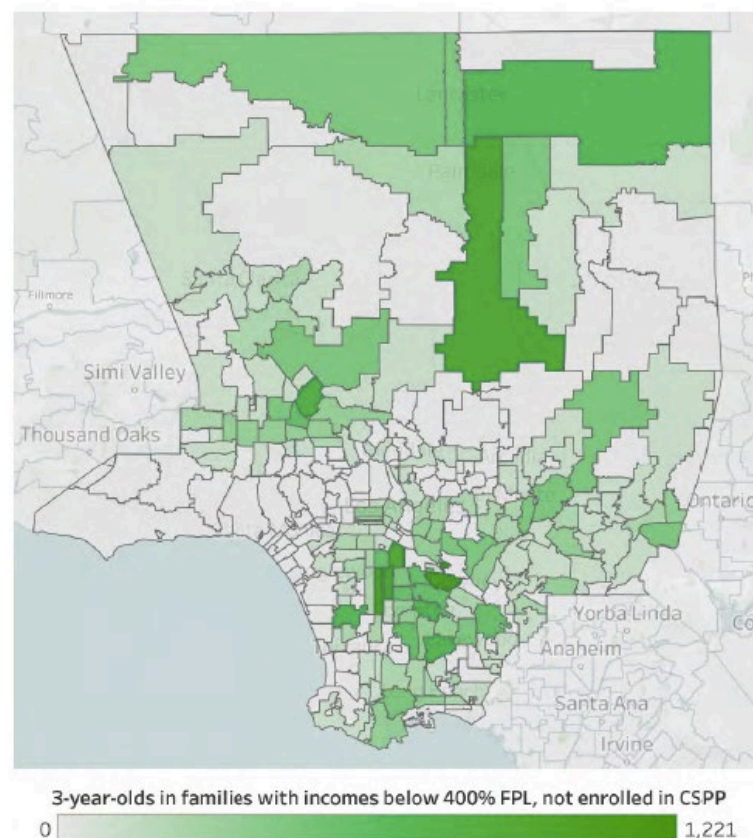
Opened-up capacity – as community and private-pay centers lose 4's – is pivoting a bit to host younger children

- L.A. County was home to about 1,500 private-pay and 1,000 publicly financed (CSPP, CCTR, Head Start) centers in 2023.
- But only about one-third of all 3's attend a pre-K center, despite the Master Plan's aspiration.
- Children's early learning appear stronger when attending two years, not just one year, of pre-K (and raised in lower-income families).

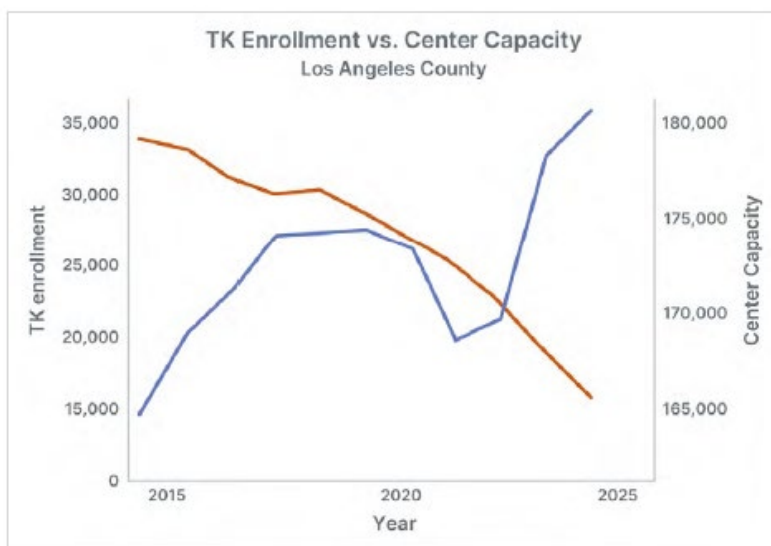


Finding 3: Many income-eligible 3's are not enrolled in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP)

Figure 4. Counts of income-eligible 3-year-olds not enrolled in the California State Preschool Program by ZIP code, 2024



Finding 4: Some pre-K centers are pivoting to 3's and younger children – but overall the field is hampered by center deaths



- Since 2021, the count of children under 4 served by CSPP statewide rose from 25,900 to 41,000 statewide.
- Percentage of Head Start (LACOE) enrollments under 4 has climbed from 55% in 2018 to 65% in 2024 (EHS count climbed 77%).
- But pivot to younger children hampered by the loss of 259 pre-K centers (or licenses) across L.A. county over the past decade.

Finding 5 – Interviews point to factors that advance or impede the pre-K center pivot to younger children

- Prior history of serving under-4's, often with CCTR ('general child care') or Head Start funding.
- Integrating voucher and private-pay families.
- Capacity and funding to alter facilities.
- Retaining teachers who are open to serving younger children.
- Outreach to families and sufficient demand.



How can we smooth the pivot to serve younger children?



Local planning and practices:

- ❑ Pinpoint communities with low access to centers for 3's, toddlers – locales where child counts outstrip supply, e.g. high growth areas.
- ❑ Clearer information to center providers about finance incentives, liberalized family eligibility (including middle-class parents).
- ❑ Integrating publicly financed and private-pay children in centers.

State policy improvements:

- ❑ CDE and CDSS could become proactive in helping contractors make the pivot to younger children. Info and technical assistance.
- ❑ Rapidly allocated small facilities grants.
- ❑ Streamlined teacher training, P-3 credential.





Special thanks to our core planning group: Cristina Alvarado, Luis Bautista, and Debra Colman. Data analysis led by Austin Land at Berkeley. Great appreciation goes to Kim Pattillo Brownson at the Ballmer Group. Mistakes and misinterpretation are solely those of the authors.

A study conducted by *UC Lifts Young Children* and E3C at the University of California, Berkeley. b_fuller@berkeley.edu



Question 1:

How has TK transformed the ECE system for families and early care and education providers?



Question 2:

With the TK expansion in mind, what recommendations need to be elevated in the ECE strategic plan?





General Public Comment And Announcements

See you at our next meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2026!
The California Endowment



childcare.lacounty.gov

