
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair

2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: AB 598
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Urgency: No
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Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Child care: family child care home education networks

SUMMARY

This bill codifies, clarifies and standardizes the duties and responsibilities of family child care home education network (FCCHEN) contractors and providers.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide child care and development services as part of a coordinated, comprehensive, and cost-effective system serving children from birth to 13 years old and their parents including a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs. (Education Code § 8200, et seq.)
- 2) Defines "child care and development services" to mean services designed to meet a wide variety of children's and families' needs while parents and guardians are working, in training, seeking employment, incapacitated, or in need of respite. (EC § 8208)
- 3) States the intent of the Legislature that all families have access to child care and development services, through resource and referral where appropriate, and regardless of demographic background or special needs, and that families are provided the opportunity to attain financial stability through employment, while maximizing growth and development of their children, and enhancing their parenting skills through participation in child care and development programs. (EC § 8202)
- 4) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure that contracts for child care and development programs include a requirement that each provider maintain a developmental profile to appropriately identify the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive growth of each child served in order to promote the child's success in the public schools. (EC § 8203.5(b))
- 5) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer general child care and development programs to include, among other things as specified, age- and developmentally-appropriate activities, supervision, parenting education and involvement, and nutrition. (EC § 8240 and § 8241)

- 6) Defines a "family child care home education network" to mean an entity organized under law that contracts with the California Department of Education (CDE), as specified, to make payments to licensed family child care home providers, and to provide educational and support services to providers and to children and families eligible for state-subsidized child care and development services. (EC § 8208(p))
- 7) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract with entities organized under law to operate family child care home education networks (FCCHEN), as specified, and establishes requirements for FCCHEN programs including to ensure that provider services are of high quality and educationally and developmentally appropriate. (EC § 8245 and § 8246)

ANALYSIS

This bill codifies, clarifies and standardizes the duties and responsibilities of FCCHEN contractors and providers. Specifically, it:

- 1) Codifies additional requirements for FCCHEN contractors, including:
 - a) Using the appropriate tools to assess FCCHEN providers, when conducting mandated assessments.
 - b) Maintaining a developmental portfolio for each child that includes, among other items, a child's work product and observations of the child.
 - c) Ensuring each developmental profile is completed, using the developmental child assessment profile selected by the department and the developmental portfolio maintained by the provider, as specified.
 - d) Conducting a parent survey and ensuring the offerings of parent conferences.
 - e) Monitoring each affiliated provider in meeting basic health and nutrition and quality standards and supporting providers in meeting quality standards by assessing program components and providing technical assistance, among other things.
 - f) Conducting no less than 6 site visits for purposes of providing technical assistance, training, support and conducting assessments.
 - g) Offering providers at least 12 hours annually of technical assistance training that may include, among other things, developmentally appropriate educational practices and parent engagement.
 - h) Employing at least one child development specialist who has educational qualifications equivalent to a child development teacher permit.

- i) Maintaining a signed, written agreement with each affiliated provider and an authorized representative of the family child care home education network (FCCHEN).
- 2) Codifies requirements for FCCHEN providers, including:
 - a) Adopting curriculum or curricula, of the provider's choosing, appropriate for the age range of children in the home. The contractor may adopt a policy limiting the curricula acceptable within its network, as specified.
 - b) Providing age and developmentally appropriate educational activities for children; care and supervision of children; and nutrition that is consistent with standards of the Child and Adult Care Food Program of the United States Department of Agriculture.
 - c) Identifying child and family social service or health needs and share those needs with the contractor.
 - d) Completing the developmental profile, in consultation with the contractor by completing the developmental child assessment profile, maintaining the developmental portfolio, documenting observations of the child's skills and conducting parent teacher conferences.
 - e) Providing the contractor with copies of all citations issued to the provider by Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services.
 - f) Obtaining no less than 12 hours of training per year, as specified.
 - 3) Specifies that providers or contractors are not required to maintain a parent advisory committee.
 - 4) Makes other technical changes.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, "current law lacks consistent administration and implementation of FCCHENs, so tools used to make quality assessments may not be appropriate to family child care home settings." This bill seeks to provide consistency in administering FCCHEN programs and codify standards for both the contracting agencies and providers.
- 2) ***Family Child Care Home Education Networks.*** The California Department of Education (CDE) has contracted with Networks for over 30 years to recruit licensed family home providers to provide care, place children with providers, ensure children receive an appropriate education program, provide training for both parents and providers, collect parent co-pays, and collect invoices from providers, among other responsibilities. The roles, responsibilities, and requirements that FCCHENs are required to meet, are contained in the Education Code and regulations developed by the CDE.

To date there are two types of family child care home education networks (FCCHEN) in operation. The first operates under the California Family Child Care Home Education Network contract type which utilizes the regional market rate. California Department of Education (CDE) contracts with 33 of these agencies/contractors who provide services to 2,625 children through 799 family child care home providers. The second type operates under the General Child Care and Development Program and utilizes the standard reimbursement rate. There are 60 agencies/contractors of this type serving 4,503 children. Some agencies hold contracts under both provisions. Overall there are roughly 30 to 40 FCCHENs statewide.

- 3) ***Why codify?*** This bill codifies existing duties and responsibilities of FCCHENs, thereby establishing a standard framework for FCCHENs. In so doing, may provide greater awareness of, and compliance with, responsibilities, and requirements. However, codification could create cost pressure to provide additional funding for the services specified in this bill. Supporters of the bill assert that given that family child care providers of independent small businesses that do not otherwise have an infrastructure of support, promoting awareness of FCCHENs that provide a structure for professional development support and resources would help build quality care in family child care home settings.
- 4) ***Related legislation.*** SB 1154 (Liu, 2016) updates, clarifies and codifies the duties and responsibilities of child care resource and referral programs (R&R). R&Rs provide information and services related to child care to *all* parents regardless of income and to *all* providers. This bill similarly clarifies and codifies the duties and responsibilities of family child care home education network (FCCHEN) of which provide information and services specifically to family home child care providers and contractors. SB 1154 was approved by this committee 8-1 and held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SUPPORT

California Child Development Administration Association
 Central Valley Children's Services Network
 Child Care Alliance Los Angeles
 Child Care Resource Center
 Child Development Resources
 Children Now
 Children's Council San Francisco
 Common Sense Kids Action
 First 5 California
 Northern California Association of Family Child Care Home Education Networks
 Northern Director's Group
 The Resource Connection
 Wu Yee Children's Services

OPPOSITION

None received.

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