
Introduced by Senator Sabrina Cervante

October 01, 2025

An act to add Section 15900 to the Education Code, relating to childcare access and family support.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 4, as introduced, Cervantes. Childcare access: family support.

This bill requires public schools in Riverside County to implement environmental sustainability programs, including renewable energy adoption, waste reduction, and climate education integration.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. This bill includes an appropriation from the state to support childcare programs.

Vote: Majority Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Committee: Yes Local Program: Yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 15900 is added to the Education Code, to read: 15900. (a) The Riverside County Childcare Expansion Fund is set up to provide financial support to licensed childcare centers to: Boost enrollment capacity by at 20% over the next three years. Make structural improvements to meet the health and safety regulations. Offer professional training development programs for childcare personnel.

(b) For families making under 200% of the federal poverty level, childcare subsidies will cover 75% of the monthly tuition.

(c) The Department of Education shall report annually to the Legislature on program participation, expenditures, and outcomes, including increased childcare availability and family employment rates.

SEC. 2.

- (a) The Program's oversight will be conducted by the California Department of Education, which include the dissemination of grants, monitoring for compliance, and evaluating the outcomes of the programs,
- (b) The aforementioned childcare centers shall provide annual reports detailing enrollment growth, program, staff, and finance advancements.
- (c) The Department will offer support and assistance to help maintain program quality and fair access throughout Riverside County.

SEC. 3.

- (a) The initial appropriation for this program shall be \$10 million from the state General Fund for the first fiscal year.
- (b) The program will be rolled out in stages, aiming for complete implementation by 2030, which will guarantee all families in Riverside County will have access to expanded and quality childcare.
- (c) The Legislature intends this program.
 - 1. Give working families access to reasonably priced childcare.
 - 2. Develop and improve the qualifications of early childhood education specialists.
 - 3. Support equity by focusing on the most resource deprived areas.