



January 28, 2021

INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: MASTER PLAN FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CARE BRIEFING

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Health

Goal: All children thrive by achieving optimal health prenatal through age 5.

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Development

Goal: All children birth through age 5 have high-quality, nurturing environments that ensure their learning readiness.

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Family Functioning

Goal: All families have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support their children's optimal development.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Building on his commitment to supporting the state's young children and their families, Governor Gavin Newsom announced on December 1, 2020, the release of the [*Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: California for All Kids*](#) (Master Plan), which provides a strong research-based roadmap for building a comprehensive and equitable early learning and care system over the next decade. The Master Plan will help the state better understand the crisis families, children, and early learning and care providers are facing amid the COVID-19 pandemic and identifies key policy goals to ensure that all California children can thrive physically, emotionally, and educationally in their early years through access to high-quality early learning and care programs. These goals include universal preschool, enhanced workforce development and equitable career pathways for educators and caregivers, and funding reforms to promote equitable access to high-quality early learning and care.¹

The Early Childhood Action Research Team will present an overview of the final version of the Master Plan to the Commission. For more information, and to download a copy of the Master Plan and Executive Summary, please visit the Master Plan website at <https://californiaforallkids.chhs.ca.gov/home>.

¹ "Governor Newsom Releases the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: California for All Kids". Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. December 1, 2020. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/12/01/governor-newsom-releases-the-master-plan-for-early-learning-and-care-california-for-all-kids/>. Press Release.

BACKGROUND OF KEY ISSUES

The 2019–20 Budget Act provided \$5 million for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in concurrence with the Executive Director of the State Board of Education, to contract with a research and analysis entity to create a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care to improve California’s early care and education system, building on the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education Final Report and the California Preschool Development Grant Strategic Plan. This funding was designated to be used for studies on the following:

- 1) A fiscal framework to expand early learning and care in the state
- 2) Early learning and care facility needs statewide
- 3) Needs for services by families eligible for subsidies, including those not currently receiving services
- 4) A quality improvement plan to support all types of providers
- 5) Steps necessary to provide universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-old children.

To assist in the development of the Master Plan, Governor Newsom established an Early Childhood Action Research Team comprised of state and national leaders in social impact, financing, policy, and equity issues. The Action Research Team consists of experts from organizations, including Child Trends, RAND, WestEd, Social Policy Research Associates, Parent Voices, Low-Income Investment Fund, American Institutes for Research, Stanford University’s School of Education, and Neimand Collaborative.

The 2019–20 Budget Act also established an Early Childhood Policy Council to advise the Governor, Legislature, and Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy, building on the work of the state’s Master Plan and the 2019 California Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education Final Report. The Council, chaired by California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, includes 27 appointed members, as well as a parent advisory committee and a workforce advisory committee.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

In June 2020, the Commission was briefed on the framework for the Master Plan. Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback on the framework.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. California for All Kids - Master Plan for Early Learning and Care PowerPoint