

# SB 1047

Expanding Access and Eligibility  
for Childcare Programs



**MONIQUE LIMÓN**  
REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 19

## THIS BILL

SB 1047 expands eligibility for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and makes it easier for low-income families to enroll and stay enrolled in childcare services.

Specifically this bill expands eligibility by allowing children as young as 18 months to eligible for the CSPP program. SB 1047 will make it easier for low-income families to enroll in CSPP and other childcare programs by establishing categorical eligibility and 24-month eligibility for low-income families. These changes will strengthen and promote efficiency in the early learning and care system in California to better meet the needs of working parents and their children, particularly toddlers.

## BACKGROUND

The experiences and relationships of children in the first five years of life shape the architecture of their brain and build a foundation for future learning and success. Quality early learning experiences during the earliest years help set children on a path to thrive in school and life while supporting working parents.

Although the importance of early childhood education is well documented, these programs are often out of reach. Currently, less than one in five children who are eligible for a state subsidized program are able to participate in one.

## PURPOSE

By expanding the eligibility of CSPP to 18 months, it will allow providers to serve more children, and give providers more flexibility to serve the needs of their community.

In 2018-19, \$127 million in State Preschool Program funds (approximately 14% of awarded funds) were returned to the state. Although there is still a large need for CSPP funds, the inflexibility of the program can cause childcare providers to lose important funding.

SB 1047 will also facilitate enrollment for families and providers by expanding categorical eligibility. If a family member is enrolled in CalFresh, Medi-Cal, WIC or Head Start the child will be eligible for all subsidized childcare programs. This will reduce the paperwork and administrative burden on families and providers.

SB 1047 also provides 24-month continuous eligibility for children in subsidized childcare, without the need to recertify. Making sure that there is continuity of care for children.

## SUPPORT

Early Edge California (Sponsor)  
EveryChild California (Sponsor)  
Kidango (Sponsor)

## STAFF CONTACT

Samantha Omana, Policy Analyst  
Samantha.Omana@sen.ca.gov, (916) 651-4019