



CDE Update: Information on Revised August Budget Trailer Bill (Senate Bill 820)

In June, the Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 98, which provided funding for education, including Early Learning and Care. Since then, several issues have arisen that are addressed in the August Budget Actions ([SB 820](#)).

Reopening and Reimbursement of Direct Service Contractors

SB 820 will allow programs operating on the campus of a Local Educational Agency (LEA) that is closed by local or state public health guidance or order to be closed and funded to be operational if the LEA is requiring the program to close.

In the event that a program operated by an LEA closes, SB 820 would require the school board or other governing body to call a public hearing to discuss the closure and prepare a plan for safely reopening early learning and care programs as soon as safely possible, but no later than when LEA campuses open for in-person instruction. The public hearing and the plan do not need to be completed before the program closes, but must be completed in a reasonable timeframe.

Supports for Voucher Providers

Under current law, voucher providers may be reimbursed for up to 10 days of non-operation. SB 820 provides 14 additional days that can be used when the provider is closed due to the COVID-19 emergency, anytime between September 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Family Fees

On July 28, CDE provided guidance waiving family fees for July and August 2020. SB 820 provides the funding to allow July and August fees to be waived and waives family fees for September 2020 through June 2021 for families where all children in the family remain at home, either for distance learning or due to the family sheltering in place. (If additional federal funds are not received, childcare providers will have to absorb the cost of the fee waivers for families remaining at home). In addition, families who were disenrolled, either voluntarily or involuntarily, will be allowed to re-enroll in programs without the need for additional eligibility documentation.

Parent Signatures

SB 820 allows providers who have attempted to collect a signature from a parent and have been unsuccessful due to COVID-19 to be reimbursed without the parent signature between July 2020 and June 2021. Providers who submit attendance records or invoices without the parent signature must document their attempts to collect a parent or guardian signature.

Addressing Priorities for In-Person Service

Understanding that when programs reopen, they may reopen with reduced in-person class sizes SB 820 requires the CDE to give guidance on which families must be prioritized for in-person Early Learning services.

The CDE is working to develop detailed Management Bulletins using this bill language that will be ready to release shortly after the bill is both passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.