



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (PACE) OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

The Professional Association for Childhood Education (PACE) of California represents the business, early education, and professional development interests of private, licensed early care and education centers. PACE is committed to quality early care and education programs for the children and families of California. The services of PACE's members enable California's parents to work and train while their children are nurtured and educated. PACE's membership of over 10,000 is a significant component of the early childhood education delivery system.

Quality Issues

To reflect the varied needs of children and families, PACE believes California's families are best served by a continuum of high quality early care and education programs, representing a variety of philosophies, environments, curricula, and teaching methodologies.

- To promote high quality, private and public, licensed early childhood care and education programs for California's children.
- To advocate for official recognition of a variety of acceptable quality measures and accreditation instruments.
- To advocate for public and private, early care and education professionals access to career development opportunities and incentives which promote recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

Child Care and Development Funding Issues

As children of all socio-economic levels deserve high quality early care and education and as PACE members serve all children, PACE believes that private licensed early care and education programs should have equitable access to child care and development funding and that such funding should be sufficient to provide high quality care and education.

- To advocate that private, licensed early childhood care and education programs have access to local, state and federal child care and development funding that benefits the children of California.
- To advocate for parental choice and access as the fundamental principles for both public and private licensed early childhood care and education programs.
- To advocate that early childhood care and education subsidy payments be restricted to licensed providers.
- To advocate for increased subsidy funding for the working poor.
- To advocate for adequate provider reimbursement levels to promote quality licensed early care and education programs.



Licensing and Regulatory Issues

PACE supports the mandates of State Licensing (prevention, compliance, and enforcement), affirms the positive relationship between Community Care Licensing (CCL) and licensees, and advocates for funding at the necessary level to fulfill those mandates.

- To support fair and reasonable regulation of early childhood care and education programs and facilities.
- To advocate for a regulatory system that conducts thorough and quick criminal background checks, identifies and eliminates sex offenders from the hiring pool, and supports safe settings.
- To support adequate funding for CCL oversight and inspections.
- To support CCL staffing at a level that promotes child health and safety.
- To support the prompt resolution of licensee appeals to CCL.
- To support the use of fees collected from licensees be used to re-build the Child Care Ombudsman (child care advocate) program and technical assistance by CCL.
- To advocate that the State General Fund continue to support Community Care Licensing and that licensee fees should not exceed 35% of its support.
- To oppose the expansion of license-exempt, early childhood care and education programs serving infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children.
- To encourage early childhood care and education providers to exceed minimum health and safety training requirements.
- To promote training on important child health and safety issues (immunization, playground safety, communicable disease, child restraint systems, etc.).
- To advocate for age-appropriate, playground regulations that advocate child safety.

Small Business Issues

PACE promotes innovative business management practices to provide the highest quality early care and education programs.

- To monitor, promote and support issues that positively effect small businesses.
- To advocate that private, licensed early care and education programs be afforded the same opportunities as those programs operated by government or non-profit agencies to serve the children and families of California.
- To advocate for fair and honorable wages, professional work conditions, and a supportive work environment.