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May 6, 2019

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Governor’s Office
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 5019
Sacramento, CA. 95814
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Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
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Subject: Support for Student Parents’ Success Through Early Learning/Child Development Lab Schools

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express its support for the expansion of funding in order to support a greater number of student parents and to provide academic preparation for teachers and related child development professions.

In his 2019-20 budget, Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed investment in early learning and in early childhood education programs by adopting a framework that “promotes a healthy start in three ways: (1) early access for children to educational and healthcare services, including services for those with adverse childhood experiences, (2) a two-generation approach that invests in parents so they can invest more in their children, and (3) easing financial pressures on parents so they can escape the cycle of poverty and focus on healthy development of their kids in those critical first five years of a child’s life.” In addition, the governor’s budget includes a proposed Cal Grant Access Award for student parents.

In the absence of other support, California must provide for these adults in their pursuit of higher education. Access to affordable and high-quality child care services for community college students with children is critical to student success and completion, and it serves as a resource of student equity that can improve overall academic outcomes, retention, and completion rates. In addition, students enrolled in the California community colleges who are seeking degrees or certificates in child development or early childhood education benefit from being able to work directly with children and parents in on-campus settings. This position represents the collective judgment of the 60,000 faculty in the California Community Colleges system as expressed at our organization’s 2019 Spring Plenary Session through Resolution 07.02 SP19 (https://asccc.org/resolutions/support-student-parents%E2%80%99-success-through-campus-early-learningchild-development-lab).

*California Governor’s Budget Summary 2019-20.

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For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges expresses its support 
for the prioritizing of the reinstitution and expansion of ongoing support for campus early childhood 
education and care lab schools to support a greater number of student parents and provide academic 
preparation for teachers and related child development professions, as well as the inclusion of funding to 
support the availability of equitable high-quality early childhood services for student parents in the 
governor’s 2019-20 budget.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

John Stanskas, President

Cc: Senate Budget Committee  
Assembly Budget Committee  
Hon. Connie Leyva, Chair, and the Senate Higher Education Committee  
Hon. Jose Medina, Chair, and Assembly Higher Education Committee  
Mónica Henestroza, Office of Speaker Rendon  
Mark Martin, Principal Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Jeanice Warden-Washington, Principal Consultant, Committee on Higher Education  
Olga Liia Ramirez, Consultant, Senate Education Committee  
Edgar Cabral, Legislative Analyst’s Office  
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Joey Freeman, Office of the Governor  
Lizette Navarette, Community College League of California  
Evan Hawkins, FACCC  
Laura Metune, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the California Community Colleges