

Highlights of the statewide impact of

CARES

Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards

2000 – 2008



CARES is a **financial incentive program** is designed to promote, reward, and encourage educational attainment and professional development among early educators through financial rewards, support programs, and efforts to **address systemic challenges** faced by early educators.

The CARES initiative is having a direct impact on the workforce development program of institutions of higher education.

“CARES gave me an educational path and helped me finance my journey down that path,” she says. “CARES contributes to the most important aspect of child development—the increased education of teachers. CARES is really about the benefits to the children.”

– **Faranak Hooman**
Center-based Early Educator
CARES Participant Rounds 1-5



“CARES not only has encouraged and helped financing formal education for many in the workforce, but it helped us as a field to recognize the need for a professional development system which also requires investment.”

– **Marcy Whitebook**
Director/Senior Researcher
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

Early Educators

(Center-based, family child care, Family, Friend and Neighbor)

- Incentives to pay for ongoing professional development
- Support to complete higher education
- Individualized educational planning services
- Access to coaching and mentoring programs
- Leadership and advocacy training
- Connection to local, state, and national resources

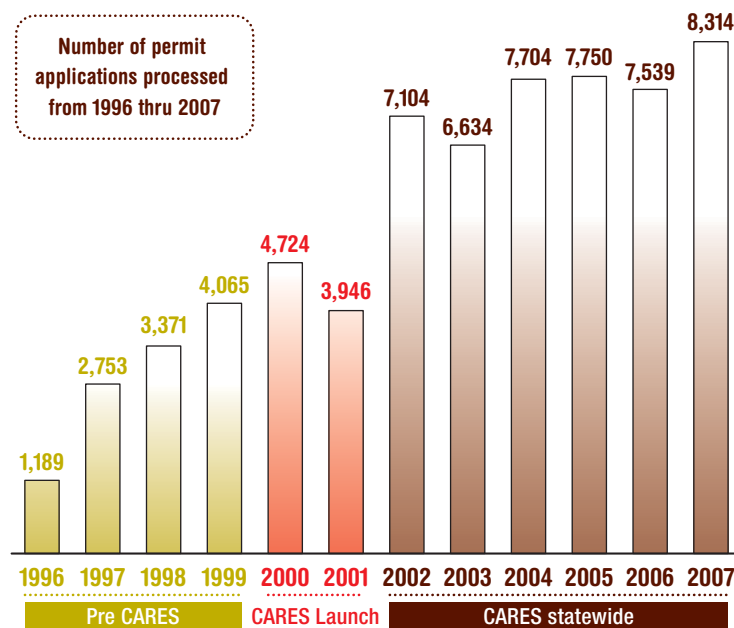
Data Highlights

- 70,798 stipends were issued (2001-07)
- 2,625 ECE students received support for textbooks (2006-08)
- 673 ECE students received tuition support (2006-09)

California Child Development Permit

- Dramatic increase in the number of permit holders
- Increased funding to support permit processing
- Pilot programs to streamline the application process
- Increased support to apply for or renew a Permit

Data Highlights



Number of early educators who upgraded their permit to higher level:

- 2005-06 = 522
- 2006-07 = 1,051
- 2007-08 = 859

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing issues the Child Development Permit. There are six permit levels from the Assistant to Program Director. Permit levels are based on formal education and experience in the field.

act, positive impact on early education in California from the individual ication. This document highlights key areas affected by this vital

Higher Education

(Community Colleges, CSU's, UC's)

Enhanced support systems

- Instituted new onsite advisors to support students
- Individualized education planning
- Linkages to campus support programs
- Foreign transcript evaluation services

Data Highlights

- 91% of CARES counties provide specialized advising and/or educational planning services

Increased Access

- New course offerings
- New models for English-language learners
- Onsite bilingual support positions
- Monetary support to pay for classes
- Increase in Baccalaureate, Master's, and Ed.D Programs

Data Highlights

- 2,625 ECE students received support for textbooks (2006-08)
- 673 ECE students received tuition support (2006-09)
- In 2005, 11 counties funded unit-bearing courses
- In 2007, 27 counties funded unit-bearing courses

Increased Articulation

- Regional articulation efforts among community colleges
- Curriculum Alignment Project^
- Baccalaureate Pathways to Early Care and Education^^

Data Highlights

- 72 of the 101 community colleges are participating in the Curriculum Alignment Project
- 18 of the 23 California State Universities are participating in BPECE

Regional and Statewide Coordination

(R&Rs, LPCs, Offices of Education, First 5 Commissions)

Regional Coordination

- Regional CARES/AB212 meetings
- Enhanced linkages to Local Child Care Planning Councils
- Increase in local conferences and seminars
- Integration of CARES and AB212 funding streams

Data Highlights

- 100% local Resource & Referral Agency
- 98% community colleges
- 89% local Head Start
- 23 regional CARES meetings were conducted from 2003 to 2008

Statewide Coordination

- Statewide CARES conference calls
- CARES email systems
- CARES conferences
- Coordinated data collection

Data Highlights

- 12 Statewide conference calls were conducted from 2003 to 2008
- 5 statewide CARES conferences were conducted from 2003 to 2008
- Data on wages, retention, educational obtainment and training has been collected on over 13,000 early educators
- Bi-monthly ebulletins sent to over 700 people connected to CARES

“The CARES initiative has re-energized early care and education programs at community colleges throughout the state. It has changed the way colleges think about their programs and has brought about innovative approaches to addressing the many educational challenges faced by the ECE workforce.”

– Jane Doe
Title

“As a former Legislator, I appreciate CARES because it is a win-win program that supports early educators and creates systems to better meet the needs of children and their families.”

– Wilma Chan
California State Assemblywoman, 16th District
2000-2006

CARES programs are supported by a multiple of funding sources, including:

■ **CA Department of Education
(AB212 funds)**

■ **First 5 California**

■ **Local First 5 Commissions**

■ **Local Funding**

In the majority of CARES counties these funding streams are brought together to create a seamless system of professional development for early educators.

**For further information about CARES,
please contact:**

WestEd E3 Institute

George Philipp

tel: (408) 299-1720

email: gphilip@wested.org

Working for Quality Child Care

United Way of the Bay Area

tel: (415) 808-7327

email: cares@caccwrc.org

**For further information about the
California Child Development Permit,
please contact:**

Child Development Training Consortium

tel: (209) 572-6080

www.childdevelopment.org

**For further information about CAP,
please contact:**

Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP)

Nancy K. Brown

Project Director

email: bdooner@sbcglobal.net

**For further information about BPECE,
please contact:**

Baccalaureate Pathways in Early Care and
Education (BPECE)

Nancy Hurlbut, Ph.D.

Project Director

email: nlh7@humboldt.edu

www.BPECE.org

Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP)^

The California Community Colleges Curriculum Alignment Project has engaged faculty from across the state to develop a lower-division program of study supporting early care and education teacher preparation. The Lower Division 8 represents evidence-based courses that are intended to become a foundational core for all early care and education professionals. Offering a consistent educational core throughout California's Community College EC/CD Programs will better prepare students with the skills and abilities that best support the success of young children.

**Baccalaureate Pathways in Early Care and
Education (BPECE)^**

BPECE is a project of the California State University Child Development Faculty to define core competencies for upper-division coursework across programs that build recursively on students' earlier coursework and experiences. A project funded by the Children, Families, and Communities Program of The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Los Altos, California 94022.

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