

Glossary

This glossary explains how terms are used in this report.

- **California Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCCR&RN)** is a nonprofit membership organization that holds several contracts from the California Department of Education to provide services to parents seeking child care and child care providers seeking training and other services. Local child care resource and referral programs may elect to join the CCCR&RN.
- **California Child Care Resource and Referral Programs** are mandated by the California *Education Code* and funded by the California Department of Education in every county to maintain up-to-date databases with information about licensed child care centers and family child care homes; to help parents understand their child care options, including providing them information about the TrustLine Registry for license-exempt providers; to increase the supply and quality of child care; and to educate the community and local policy makers about child care issues and concerns.
- **California Early Learning Quality Improvement System (CAEL QIS)** is the term used in Senate Bill (SB) 1629 (Steinberg, Chapter 3078, Statutes of 2008) for a system to improve outcomes for children and promote school readiness by improving the quality of early learning and care programs for children from birth to age five.
- **California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS)** is a longitudinal data system used to maintain student-level data, such as demographics, courses, discipline records, assessments, staff assignments, and other information for state and federal reporting.
- **California Longitudinal Teacher Integrated Data Education System (CALTIDES)** will be a new, comprehensive system jointly developed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the California Department of Education. The system will integrate existing databases to support the retention of longitudinal data to meet federal No Child Left Behind and other state reporting requirements, facilitate assignment monitoring, and conduct high-quality program evaluations.
- **California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE)** is designated to increase the availability of support services necessary for enrolled expectant and parenting students to improve academic achievement and parenting skills and provide a quality early learning and care program for children. This program replaces the Pregnant Minors Program, the School Age Parenting and Infant Development Program, and the Pregnant and Lactating Students program.
- **California State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (Early Learning Advisory Council, or ELAC)** is the name used in Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Executive Order (S-23-09) to establish a state advisory council that meets the federal requirements to qualify for funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support improvements in early learning and care. ELAC will make recommendations to improve the state's policies and practices, including the implementation of the CAEL QIS, in ways that will lead to better child outcomes.
- The **Child Care Food Program**, part of the federally and state-funded Child and Adult Care Food Program, provides financial assistance to licensed child care centers and family child care homes to improve the nutrition and diets of children under the age of 13 and to promote healthy eating habits.

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- **Child Protective Services**, a component of the California Department of Social Services, is the major state system for intervening in cases of reported or suspected child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. When a referral is received, the staff is obligated to investigate the claim by obtaining facts from the person making the referral.
- **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)** is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality in preschool through third-grade classrooms. The CLASS consists of three domains (emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support) that incorporate ten dimensions of teacher-student interactions.
- **Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP)**, or the California Community College Early Childhood Curriculum Alignment Project, is a grassroots effort initiated by early childhood/child development faculty to develop a set of lower-division courses to be offered statewide and articulated as a transfer package with four year colleges; CAP began in 2006.
- **Curriculum Alignment Project Core 8** means credit-bearing courses that meet the aligned standards of the Curriculum Alignment Project and cover the following subjects: child growth and development; child, family, and community; principles and practices; introduction to curriculum; observation and assessment; health, safety, and nutrition; teaching in a diverse society; and practicum.
- **Early educator** is the term used for center-based staff and licensed family child care providers serving children birth to age five. Early educators perform multiple roles, serving as teachers, caregivers, and partners with families.
- **Environment Rating Scales (ERS)** are observational assessment tools used to evaluate the quality of early learning and care programs. Examples of these scales include the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale – Revised (ITERS-R), the Early Childhood Rating Scale – Revised (ECERS – R), and the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS-R). Each ERS is divided into criteria that assess the program’s physical environment, health and safety procedures, materials, interpersonal relationships, and opportunities for learning and development.
- **Family child care** refers to homes licensed by the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide care to infants, toddlers, preschool, and school-age children. There are two categories of family child care homes: small family child care homes for up to eight children, including the early educator’s own children under age ten, and large family child care homes, serving up to 14 children, including the early educator’s own children under the age of ten. Large family child care homes must have two adults (the provider and an assistant) available to provide care.
- **Financial incentives** associated with quality rating systems are typically designed to motivate providers to participate in the system, encourage staff to obtain additional relevant training, and provide resources for quality improvements. Generally, programs with higher ratings receive greater financial assistance than do programs with lower ratings. Examples of financial incentives include tiered provider reimbursement, program development grants, and tax credits.
- **First 5 California**, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, is dedicated to improving the lives of California’s young children and their families through a comprehensive system of education, health services, child care, and other crucial programs. First 5 California distributes funds to local communities through the state’s 58 counties, all of which have created their own local First 5 local commissions.

- **Head Start** is a federally funded and administered preschool program that provides comprehensive services to both low-income children and their families. To be eligible, a child must generally be at least three years old by the date used to determine eligibility for public schools in the community. At least 90 percent of children enrolled in Head Start must be from low-income families.
 - **Early Head Start** promotes healthy prenatal outcomes, healthy families, and the optimal development of infants and toddlers beginning as young as newborn infants.
 - **Migrant and Seasonal Head Start** is designed to provide comprehensive Head Start services, including child development and social services, to low-income families working in agriculture, or families who migrate while working in agriculture.
 - **Tribal Head Start**, primarily serves Native Americans living on reservations or colonies throughout northern California.
- **License-exempt care providers** refer to individuals who are not required by law to have a license to operate and are not required to follow the licensing requirements of DSS. These providers may care for children from only one other family in addition to their own children and relatives. License-exempt care providers are often friends, neighbors, or family members.
- **License-exempt early learning and care programs** are early childhood education programs that are administered by an agency with operational oversight and responsibility for:
 - Meeting Title 22 program licensing standards
 - Providing liability coverage
 - Providing financial and legal recourse for families
 These programs include Tribal programs; Cal-SAFE programs; parent cooperatives operated by agencies, such as local educational agencies; and Parks and Recreation programs.
- **Local Child Care Planning Councils**, mandated by the California *Education Code*, are found in every California county. Funded by the California Department of Education, each council is responsible for planning and coordinating early learning and care services in its county. Councils also typically advocate for high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care services.
- The **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** is a nonprofit association focusing on professional development to improve the quality of educational and developmental services for children from birth through age eight. NAEYC administers a national, voluntary accreditation system of professional standards for early childhood education programs, which helps families identify high-quality programs for their children.
- The **National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center** is a national clearinghouse and technical assistance center that provides comprehensive early learning and care information resources and technical assistance to state Child Care and Development Fund administrators and other key stakeholders.
- In a **non-weighted block system** associated with a quality rating structure, all the quality criteria in each tier need to be accomplished to obtain a particular rating. The criteria in each tier build on those in previous tiers. The **Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)** is designed by WestEd to help infant and toddler teachers assist young children's cognitive and social and emotional development. The PITC's guides, manuals, and on-site trainings help

child care managers and infant/toddler care teachers become sensitive to infants' cues; connect with their family and culture; and develop responsive, relationship-based care.

- The **PITC Program Assessment Rating Scale (PITC PARS)** is an assessment tool designed by WestEd to evaluate programs that serve children birth to age three. The PARS measures primary care, small groups, continuity of care, individualized care, inclusive care, and culturally responsive care.
- **Quality rating and improvement system (QRIS)** is a system that not only assesses and rates early learning and care programs, but also provides technical assistance and support services to help programs improve.
- **Quality rating structure** is the set of steps (or tiers) for quality elements within the QRIS for assessing program quality.
- The **Regional Market Rate (RMR)** is a child care provider rate that is based on the average cost of child care within each California county. RMR rate ceilings vary within counties depending on the provider type, the age of the child being served, and the length of the program day. Two state-subsidized programs, CalWORKs and the Alternative Payment Program, use the RMR or a percentage of the RMR to determine the reimbursement for families using center-based, licensed family child care, or license-exempt settings.
- The **Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR)** is the child care provider rate used to reimburse Title 5 center-based programs. As of 2010, the SRR is equal to \$34.38 per child day of enrollment or \$8,595 annually. In 22 counties with more than 80 percent of California's population, the RMR is higher than the SRR.
- **Tiered reimbursement systems** are finance mechanisms that offer higher subsidy payments to child care programs that meet higher standards of care.
- **Title 5 General Child Care and Development** is a state-contracted full-day program serving children ages birth to three and kindergarten-age eligible children to children thirteen years old. Eligible children include those under Child Protective Services supervision or those who meet income eligibility requirements or other criteria. This program is required to meet the same Title 5 standards as the State Preschool program.
- **Title 5 State Preschool programs** are designed to prepare three- and four-year-old children from low-income families for kindergarten. Priority is given to children who are Child Protective Services recipients, children who are identified by Child Protective Services as being at risk for neglect or abuse, and four-year-old children who are income-eligible. Programs must meet Title 22 requirements and additional requirements that include stricter child-to-adult ratios and increased teacher and staff qualifications.
- **Title 22 licensed programs** meet Title 22 licensing requirements set by the DSS. These requirements include staff-child ratios, teacher and staff qualifications, criminal background checks, screening and clearance for tuberculosis, and licensing inspections for compliance with basic health and safety requirements.
- **TrustLine** is California's registry of in-home child care providers, tutors, and in-home counselors who have passed a background screening. All caregivers listed with TrustLine have been cleared through a fingerprint check of records at the California Department of Justice, which means they have no disqualifying criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse reports in California. TrustLine is administered by the DSS and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.