



Academic Senate
Summer 2020
Resolution 21.01Su20
SMCCCD Early Childhood Education Programs

Whereas, having qualified professionals in the field of early education is critical to reopening California's economy, and there is no economic recovery unless our children are cared for, learning, and safe;

Whereas, women comprise 94% of the early care and education workforce, and the COVID-19 pandemic has created a critical imbalance in equitable employment opportunities and accessible childcare;

Whereas, this equity issue extends to all families as parents re-enter the workforce, and if quality childcare is not accessible, it creates a deficit to the family income as parents are forced to remove themselves from the workforce to stay at home with their child(ren);

Whereas, early care and education field-based courses have been especially hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and new state guidelines disallow non-essential adults into classrooms, so students are unable to complete required coursework;

Whereas, with the lack of classroom access, students are in jeopardy of not completing their degrees and certificates, which impacts the early care and education workforce, adding to the existing teacher shortage;

Whereas, while early care and education programs within the California Community College system have pivoted courses to a distance education format, direct experience in a classroom with children cannot be delivered online or virtually, and future teachers who do not have any actual supported experience with children before employment would be at a significant disadvantage, as would the young children in their care;

Whereas, state-wide education organizations, such as the California Community College Early Childhood Education (CCCECE) and California Community College Practicum Community of Practice, recommend that the ECE programs use resources that include video footage of children and classrooms and virtual content for a variety of assessment tools to allow students to complete their required capstone *Practicum* on time, while maintaining quality learning;

Whereas, the California Early Childhood Mentor Program (CECMP) provides workplace experience for our future early care and education workforce by partnering master teachers with candidates completing required student teaching hours and, due to COVID-19, the CECMP is able to close the gap for students by providing online access to master teachers to build

professional skills and, further, that the state of California is proposing to withdraw funds from the CECMP at the end of 2020-21;

Whereas, the California Community College Early Childhood Education Lab Schools exist to provide child development services to the children of students and employees on campus settings, to function as CTE laboratory settings and practicum sites, and to give early childhood education students practical, verifiable and curated experiences with young children in an appropriate instructional setting, and over 85% of the CA ECE workforce completed classes at the California Community Colleges;

Whereas, our SMCCCD Education/Child Development faculty have been working collaboratively with hundreds of Early Childhood Education and Education faculty members across the state of California on the daunting task of transforming our field-based observation, assessment and practicum/student teaching classes into online and remote modalities; and,

Whereas, state-wide advocacy groups support resources that include video footage of children and classrooms, virtual content for assessment tools used in our field, continued funding for the California Early Childhood Mentor Program, and resumption of services and support for the community college lab schools.

Resolved; the District Academic Senate recommend that the District purchase the necessary materials and access to quality resources and tools to enable faculty to teach required content online in Fall 2020;

Resolved; the District Academic Senate asks the SMCCCD Board of Trustees to advocate for closed captioned and accessible future raw footage of early childhood and education classrooms at the state level through from nationally recognized groups;

Resolved; the District Academic Senate asks the SMCCCD Board of Trustees to advocate and to support full funding for the California Early Childhood Mentor Program to the CCCCCO, the California Department of Education, and the Governor along with his Early Childhood Policy Committee; and,

Resolved; the District Academic Senate assert to the District and Board of Trustees that it is imperative that lab schools reopened to ensure that California has a trained early childhood workforce that will allow for post-COVID economic security for our County and our State, as mutually agreed upon by the District Administration and Education/Child Development faculty.

Passed unanimously on July 20, 2020.