

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 568

**Introduced by Assembly Member Robert Rivas
(Coauthor: Assembly Member McCarty)
(Coauthor: Senator Cortese)**

February 11, 2021

An act to amend Section 8212 of the Education Code, ~~to amend Sections 1596.853 and 1596.874 of the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10207~~ *Sections 10207 and 10208* to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to early learning and care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 568, as amended, Robert Rivas. Early learning and care: complaints about discrimination and exclusion of children: Early Learning and Care Dashboard. ~~care~~.

(1) Existing law establishes childcare resource and referral programs, which are established to serve a defined geographic area and provide prescribed services. Among the services provided by these programs is the establishment of a referral process that responds to parental need for information, that is provided with full recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents, and that makes referrals to licensed child-day-care *daycare* facilities, as specified. In providing these services, childcare resource and referral programs are required to maintain ongoing documentation of requests for service, including, among other types of data, the number or calls and contacts to the childcare information and referral program or component, the ages of children served, and the reason that the childcare is needed.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that, through greater data transparency and accountability, addresses the suspension and expulsion of African American and Hispanic children in early learning and care settings at disproportionate rates and inequitable access to high-quality early learning and care.

The bill would add to the documentation required to be maintained by childcare resource and referral programs the number of requests for care by age of the child, race and ethnicity of the child, hours of care needed by race and ethnicity of the child, and the facility type requested by race and ethnicity of the child.

(2) ~~The California Child Day Care Facilities Act authorizes any person to request an inspection of any child day care facility by transmitting to the State Department of Social Services notice of an alleged violation of applicable requirements prescribed by statutes or regulations of this state. Complaints under the act may be made either orally or in writing.~~

~~This bill, commencing January 1, 2022, would authorize any person to submit a complaint related to discriminatory or exclusionary practices, including suspension or expulsion of a child, persuading a family to withdraw a child, or cutting hours of care unrelated to a change in family need, to the State Department of Social Services orally or in writing. With respect to such a complaint, the bill would require that the complainant be asked to indicate the age, race, and ethnicity of the child, the facility type of the provider, and whether the care was provided by a subsidized program. The bill would prohibit complaints regarding discriminatory or exclusionary practices from triggering an inspection or investigation, but would require the department to report data on the total number of such complaints to the Legislature annually starting in January 2023.~~

~~The bill would also require the department to include in the notice it provides, under existing law, to each licensed child day care facility for posting, information indicating that complaints may be made regarding health and safety, discrimination, and exclusion.~~

(3)

(2) Existing law establishes the Cradle-to-Career Data System Workgroup to assess and recommend data system structural components, processes, and options for expansion and enhancement of data system functionality with respect to data collected as young persons make their way through early learning and on to elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services, in coordination conjunction with the State Department of Education, to develop and maintain the Early Learning and Care Dashboard, a web-based system for publicly reporting data regarding the California state preschool program and specified early learning and care programs, no later than January 1, 2024. The bill would require the dashboard to report information that would include, among other things, enrollment by race, ethnicity, and age in each type of early learning and care program, the total number of complaints related to discrimination or exclusion, by race and age of the child and early learning or childcare facility type, and the total number of children *with an individualized education program or individualized family service plan who enrolled in the California state preschool program* ~~that were and were~~ suspended or expelled, by race and ethnicity.

The bill would require the Cradle-to-Career Data System Workgroup to make recommendations for additions or modifications to the dashboard no later than January 1, 2025. The bill would also require a stakeholder group to make recommendations to the Legislature and the State Department of Social Services regarding implicit bias and racism training for child development permitholders, as specified.

(3) *Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of child daycare facilities by the State Department of Social Services and imposes various training requirements on employees of child daycare facilities.*

This bill would require the department, in conjunction with the State Department of Education, to establish the antibias education grant program to enable selected regional leads to offer training, coaching, and professional development to early learning and childcare staff. The bill would require an application to become a regional lead to include specified components and require the department to give preference to applicants with certain characteristic or qualifications, including, among others, applicants that demonstrate a history of providing antibias, implicit bias, or antiracism training to early learning and care providers, parents, teachers, or its own staff. The bill would require a regional lead selected by the department to offer antibias education to early learning and education providers located in all counties in the region for which it is the regional lead. The bill would require funding to be allocated to each regional lead based on the number of children in its region, but would prohibit a regional lead from receiving less than \$250,000. The bill would make the implementation of these

provisions contingent on an appropriation for these purposes in the annual Budget Act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) National data indicates that children are expelled, suspended,
4 and counseled out of early learning and childcare programs at
5 much higher rates than in grades K–12, and that African American
6 and Hispanic children, especially boys, are disproportionately
7 impacted by this practice. California does not currently prohibit
8 expulsion or suspension in early learning and childcare programs.

9 (2) Inequitable access to, and exclusion from, high-quality early
10 learning and care programs significantly contributes to the
11 vocabulary gap, the academic achievement gap, and the graduation
12 gap.

13 (3) California currently does not collect suspension and
14 expulsion information from early learning and care providers,
15 unless the child attends a local educational agency and has an
16 individualized education program or individualized family service
17 plan pursuant to Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
18 Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.).

19 (4) California's data systems annually collect information about
20 the age, race, and ethnicity of children enrolled in early learning
21 and care programs, provider health and safety complaints and
22 violations, the number and location of licensed early learning and
23 care providers in each county, the number of childcare permits,
24 and the number of children with an individualized education
25 program or individualized family services plan that have been
26 suspended or expelled, but does not currently have a platform to
27 share this information publicly. Better access to this data would
28 allow policymakers and providers to make informed decisions
29 about where to invest additional resources, and would help identify
30 gaps and inequities in the availability of, and access to, early
31 learning and care.

32 (5) Resource and referral programs are required to collect
33 information about parent requests for early learning and care

1 services, including the age of the child needing services and the
2 hours of care requested, but currently do not collect information
3 about the race or ethnicity of families seeking care. Additional
4 data on the demographics of families seeking care would allow
5 policymakers and departments to determine whether access to
6 high-quality programs is equitable by race and ethnicity and
7 establish targeted strategies to increase equity.

8 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to enact
9 legislation that, through greater data transparency and
10 accountability, addresses the suspension and expulsion of African
11 American and Hispanic children in early learning and care settings
12 at disproportionate rates and inequitable access to high-quality
13 early learning and care.

14 SEC. 2. Section 8212 of the Education Code is amended to
15 read:

16 8212. (a) For purposes of this article, childcare resource and
17 referral programs, established to serve a defined geographic area,
18 shall provide the following services:

19 (1) (A) Identification of the full range of existing childcare
20 services through information provided by all relevant public and
21 private agencies in the areas of service, and the development of a
22 resource file of those services, which shall be maintained and
23 updated at least quarterly. These services shall include, but not be
24 limited to, family-day care *daycare* homes, public and private day
25 care *daycare* programs, full-time and part-time programs, and
26 infant, preschool, and extended care programs.

27 (B) The resource file shall include, but not be limited to, the
28 following information:

- 29 (i) Type of program.
- 30 (ii) Hours of service.
- 31 (iii) Ages of children served.
- 32 (iv) Fees and eligibility for services.
- 33 (v) Significant program information.

34 (2) (A) (i) Establishment of a referral process that responds to
35 parental need for information and that is provided with full
36 recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents. Resource and
37 referral programs shall make referrals to licensed child-day care
38 *daycare* facilities. Referrals shall be made to unlicensed care
39 facilities only if there is no requirement that the facility be licensed.
40 The referral process shall afford parents maximum access to all

1 referral information. This access shall include, but is not limited
2 to, telephone referrals to be made available for at least 30 hours
3 per week as part of a full week of operation. Every effort shall be
4 made to reach all parents within the defined geographic area,
5 including, but not limited to, any of the following:

6 (I) Toll-free telephone lines.

7 (II) Office space convenient to parents and providers.

8 (III) Referrals in languages which are spoken in the community.

9 (ii) Each childcare resource and referral program shall publicize
10 its services through all available media sources, agencies, and other
11 appropriate methods.

12 (B) (i) Provision of information to any person who requests a
13 childcare referral of their right to view the licensing information
14 of a licensed child~~-day~~ *daycare* facility required to be
15 maintained at the facility pursuant to Section 1596.859 of the
16 Health and Safety Code and to access any public files pertaining
17 to the facility that are maintained by the State Department of Social
18 Services Community Care Licensing Division.

19 (ii) A written or oral advisement in substantially the following
20 form will comply with the requirements of clause (i):

21 “State law requires licensed child~~-day~~ *daycare* facilities to
22 make accessible to the public a copy of any licensing report
23 pertaining to the facility that documents a facility visit or a
24 substantiated complaint investigation. In addition, a more complete
25 file regarding a-child~~-care~~ *childcare* licensee may be available at
26 an office of the State Department of Social Services Community
27 Care Licensing Division. You have the right to access any public
28 information in these files.”

29 (3) (A) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests
30 for service tabulated through the internal referral process. The
31 following documentation of requests for service shall be maintained
32 by all childcare resource and referral programs:

33 (i) Number of calls and contacts to the childcare information
34 and referral program or component.

35 (ii) Ages of children served.

36 (iii) Time category of childcare request for each child.

37 (iv) Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and swing
38 shift.

39 (v) Reason that the childcare is needed.

1 (vi) The number of requests for care by age of the child, race
2 and ethnicity of the child, hours of care needed by race and
3 ethnicity of the child, and facility type requested by race and
4 ethnicity of the child.

5 (B) This information shall be maintained in a manner that is
6 easily accessible for dissemination purposes, and shall be accessible
7 to local childcare and development planning councils authorized
8 pursuant to Section 8499.5 and any county implementing an
9 individualized county childcare subsidy plan.

10 (4) Provision of technical assistance to existing and potential
11 providers of all types of childcare services. This assistance shall
12 include, but not be limited to:

13 (A) Information on all aspects of initiating new childcare
14 services including, but not limited to, licensing, zoning, program
15 and budget development, and assistance in finding this information
16 from other sources.

17 (B) Information and resources that help existing childcare
18 services providers to maximize their ability to serve the children
19 and parents of their community.

20 (C) Dissemination of information on current public issues
21 affecting the local and state delivery of childcare services.

22 (D) Facilitation of communication between existing childcare
23 and child-related services providers in the community served.

24 (5) (A) (i) Provision of a childcare navigator to support children
25 in foster care, children previously in foster care upon return to
26 their home of origin, and children of parents involved in the child
27 welfare system, including the children of nonminor dependents.
28 The navigator shall work with the child's family, as described in
29 paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 11461.6 of the Welfare
30 and Institutions Code, and the child's social worker and child and
31 family team to assess childcare opportunities appropriate to the
32 child's age and needs, assist the family in identifying potential
33 opportunities for an ongoing childcare subsidy, assist the caregiver
34 in completing appropriate childcare program applications, and
35 develop an overall, long-term childcare plan for the child.

36 (ii) As a condition of receiving funds pursuant to this
37 subparagraph, each resource and referral program shall develop
38 and enter into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other
39 formal agreement with the county child welfare agency in order
40 to facilitate interagency communication and, to the maximum

1 extent possible, to leverage federal funding, including
2 administrative funding, available pursuant to Title ~~IV-E~~ IV-E of
3 the federal Social Security Act, to enhance the navigation support
4 authorized under this subparagraph, or the resource and referral
5 program shall explain, in writing, annually, why entering into a
6 memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal agreement
7 with the county child welfare agency is not practical or feasible.
8 Navigator services provided pursuant to this subparagraph shall
9 be made available to any child in foster care, any child previously
10 in foster care who has returned to their home of origin, and any
11 child of parents involved in the child welfare system, including
12 any child who meets the eligibility criteria for the Emergency Child
13 Care Bridge Program for Foster Children established pursuant to
14 Section 11461.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Eligibility
15 for navigator services shall not be contingent on a child's receipt
16 of a childcare payment or voucher.

17 (B) (i) Provision of trauma-informed training and coaching to
18 childcare providers working with children, and children of
19 parenting youth, in the foster care system. Training shall include,
20 but not be limited to, infant and toddler development and
21 research-based, trauma-informed best care practices. Childcare
22 providers shall be provided with coaching to assist them in applying
23 training techniques and strategies for working with children, and
24 children of parenting youth, in foster care.

25 (ii) As a condition of receiving funds pursuant to this
26 subparagraph, each resource and referral program, in coordination
27 with the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network,
28 shall develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding,
29 contract, or other formal agreement with the county child welfare
30 agency in order to, to the maximum extent possible, leverage
31 federal funding, including training funds, available pursuant to
32 Title ~~IV-E~~ IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, to enhance the
33 training support authorized under this subparagraph, or the resource
34 and referral agency shall explain, in writing, annually, why entering
35 into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal
36 agreement with the county child welfare agency is not practical
37 or feasible.

38 (b) Services prescribed by this section shall be provided in
39 order to maximize parental choice in the selection of childcare to

1 facilitate the maintenance and development of childcare services
2 and resources.

3 (c) (1) A program operating pursuant to this article shall, within
4 two business days of receiving notice, remove a licensed child day
5 care facility with a revocation or a temporary suspension order, or
6 that is on probation from the program's referral list.

7 (2) A program operating pursuant to this article shall, within
8 two business days of receiving notice, notify all entities, operating
9 a program under Article 3 (commencing with Section 8220) and
10 Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 8350) in the program's
11 jurisdiction, of a licensed child day care *daycare* facility with a
12 revocation or a temporary suspension order, or that is on probation.

13 SEC. 3. Section 1596.853 of the Health and Safety Code is
14 amended to read:

15 1596.853. (a) Any person may request an inspection of any
16 child day care facility in accordance with the California Child Day
17 Care Facilities Act by transmitting to the department notice of an
18 alleged violation of applicable requirements prescribed by the
19 statutes or regulations of this state. A complaint may be made
20 either orally or in writing.

21 (b) The substance of the complaint shall be provided to the
22 licensee no earlier than at the time of the inspection. Unless the
23 complainant specifically requests otherwise, neither the substance
24 of the complaint provided the licensee nor any copy of the
25 complaint or any record published, released, or otherwise made
26 available to the licensee shall disclose the name of any person
27 mentioned in the complaint, except the name of any duly authorized
28 officer, employee, or agent of the department conducting the
29 investigation or inspection pursuant to this chapter.

30 (c) (1) Upon receipt of a complaint, the department shall make
31 a preliminary review and, unless the department determines that
32 the complaint is willfully intended to harass a licensee or is without
33 any reasonable basis, the department shall make an onsite
34 inspection within 10 days after receiving the complaint, except
35 where the visit would adversely affect the licensing investigation
36 or the investigation of other agencies, including, but not limited
37 to, law enforcement agencies. In either event, the complainant
38 shall be promptly informed of the department's proposed course
39 of action.

1 (2) If the department determines that the complaint is without
2 a reasonable basis, then the complaint shall be marked confidential
3 and shall not be disclosed to the public. The childcare provider
4 shall be notified in writing within 30 days of the dismissal that the
5 complaint has been dismissed.

6 (d) (1) The department shall notify a resource and referral
7 program funded under Section 8210 of the Education Code, as
8 follows:

9 (A) Upon the issuance or denial of a license for a child day care
10 facility within the resource and referral program's jurisdiction.

11 (B) Within one business day of a finding that physical or sexual
12 abuse has occurred at a child day care facility within the resource
13 and referral program's jurisdiction.

14 (C) Within two business days of the issuance of a temporary
15 suspension order, or the revocation or placement on probation of
16 a license for a child day care facility within the resource and
17 referral program's jurisdiction.

18 (D) The department shall also notify the resource and referral
19 program of the final resolution of any action specified in this
20 paragraph.

21 (2) With the exception of parents seeking local day care service,
22 any other entity specified in subdivision (b) of Section 1596.86
23 may request that the department provide the notification described
24 in paragraph (1).

25 (e) When the department substantiates an allegation that it deems
26 to be serious in a facility funded by the Child Development
27 Division of the State Department of Education pursuant to Chapter
28 2 (commencing with Section 8200) of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title
29 1 of the Education Code it shall notify the Child Development
30 Division.

31 (f) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
32 commencing January 1, 2022, any person may submit a complaint
33 related to discriminatory or exclusionary practices, including
34 suspension or expulsion of a child, persuading a family to withdraw
35 a child, or cutting hours of care unrelated to a change in family
36 need, to the department orally or in writing. Complainants shall
37 be asked to indicate the age, race, and ethnicity of the child, the
38 facility type of the provider, and whether the care was provided
39 by a subsidized program including the California State Preschool
40 Program, as described in Section 8235 of the Education Code, or

1 the early learning and care programs described in Section 10203
2 of the Education Code. Complaints regarding discriminatory or
3 exclusionary practices shall not trigger an inspection or
4 investigation.

5 (2) The department shall report the total number of complaints
6 regarding discriminatory or exclusionary practices as described in
7 this subdivision to the Legislature on or before January 31, 2023,
8 and on or before January 31 of each year thereafter. A report
9 submitted pursuant to this paragraph shall be submitted in
10 compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

11 SEC. 4. Section 1596.874 of the Health and Safety Code is
12 amended to read:

13 1596.874. (a) The State Department of Social Services shall
14 furnish each licensed child day care facility with a notice that shall
15 be posted at the facility where it can be easily seen by employees
16 and consumers. The required notice shall contain information that
17 does all of the following:

18 (1) Identifies the licensing agency and how licensing regulations
19 may be obtained.

20 (2) Gives local telephone numbers where complaints may be
21 made.

22 (3) Indicates that complaints may be made regarding health and
23 safety, discrimination, and exclusion.

24 (4) Contains the nonretaliation provision in Section 1596.881.

25 (b) The licensee of the child day care facility shall make the
26 licensee's copy of current licensing regulations available to
27 employees and consumers.

28 SEC. 5.

29 SEC. 3. Section 10207 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
30 Code, immediately following Section 10206, to read:

31 10207. (a) No later than January 1, 2024, in coordination
32 conjunction with the State Department of Education, and in
33 consultation with the Cradle-to-Career Data System Workgroup
34 established pursuant to Section 10853 of the Education Code, the
35 department shall develop and maintain the Early Learning and
36 Care Dashboard, a web-based system for publicly reporting data
37 regarding the California state preschool program, as described in
38 Section 8235 of the Education Code, and the early learning and
39 care programs described in Section 10203. The dashboard shall

1 report all of the following information at a statewide and
2 countywide level:

3 (1) Enrollment by race, ethnicity, and age in each type of early
4 learning or childcare program.

5 (2) The number of requests for early learning and childcare by
6 age, and race and ethnicity.

7 (3) The time category of care requested, by race and ethnicity
8 of the child.

9 (4) The type of early learning or childcare facility preferred, if
10 stated, by race and ethnicity.

11 (5) The total number of health and safety complaints, by early
12 learning or childcare facility type.

13 (6) The total number of complaints related to discrimination or
14 exclusion, by race and age of the child, and by early learning or
15 childcare facility type.

16 (7) The number of active child-day-care *daycare* licenses, as
17 described in Article 2 (commencing with Section 1596.80) of
18 Chapter 3.4 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, by facility
19 type, capacity, ages served, and ZIP Code.

20 (8) The number of active child development permits, at each
21 level, as reported by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

22 (9) The total number of children with an individualized
23 education program or individualized family service plan pursuant
24 to Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
25 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), by race and ethnicity.

26 (10) The total number of children with an individualized
27 education program or individualized family service plan pursuant
28 to Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
29 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), who were enrolled in the California
30 state preschool program and were suspended or expelled, by race
31 and ethnicity.

32 (11) The total number of children enrolled in the California state
33 preschool program or one of the early learning and care programs
34 described in Section 10203, that were suspended or expelled, by
35 race and ethnicity. *The requirement to include this data on the*
36 dashboard is contingent upon the enactment and implementation
37 of another act that requires the collection of information on
38 suspension and expulsion.

39 (b) No later than January 1, 2025, the Cradle-to-Career Data
40 System Workgroup shall make recommendations for additions or

1 modifications to the Early Learning and Care Dashboard to ensure
2 that it aligns with the Cradle-to-Career Data System.

3 (c) No later than January 1, 2024, a stakeholder group convened
4 by the department shall make recommendations to the Legislature
5 and the department regarding the type and extent of training on
6 implicit bias and racism that should be provided to holders of the
7 child development permit. The stakeholder group shall provide a
8 cost estimate for this training, and identify existing local
9 institutions, including resource and referral programs, local
10 childcare planning councils, and county offices of education, that
11 could be used to provide training. The group shall provide
12 recommendations on how to prioritize funding for training based
13 on the Early Learning and Care Dashboard data. Funding for this
14 training shall be contingent upon the enactment of an appropriation
15 for its purposes in the Budget Act or another statute.

16 *SEC. 4. Section 10208 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
17 Code, immediately following Section 10207, to read:*

18 10208. (a) *The department, in conjunction with the State
19 Department of Education, shall establish the antibias education
20 grant program to enable selected regional leads to offer training,
21 coaching, and professional development to early learning and
22 childcare staff, including those who provide care at licensed and
23 unlicensed facilities.*

24 (b) *The department shall identify between 6 and 12 diverse
25 regions within the state and develop and administer a competitive
26 grant process to select an antibias education regional lead for
27 each region. An entity shall only be eligible to apply to become
28 an antibias education regional lead if the entity has a current
29 contract with the State Department of Education to operate a
30 resource and referral agency or an alternative payment program,
31 or is a local educational agency. To apply to become an antibias
32 education regional lead, an entity shall submit an application to
33 the department, which shall include, at a minimum, all of the
34 following:*

35 (1) *A description of how the entity will implement a meaningful
36 and consistent antibias education framework that includes training,
37 coaching, and professional development offerings designed to
38 further participants' understanding, identification, and prevention
39 of the harmful emotional and psychological impacts on children
40 from societal prejudice and bias.*

1 (2) Identification of the antibias education module or framework
2 that the entity will use in the creation of training, coaching, and
3 professional development offerings.

4 (3) A description of how the entity will allocate resources to
5 ensure that participants receive meaningful antibias education
6 that is sustained, consistent, and progressively builds upon
7 participants' understanding.

8 (4) A description of the actions the entity will take to ensure
9 that trainings, coaching, and professional development offerings
10 are advertised and accessible to early learning and childcare
11 providers who work at licensed and unlicensed facilities, including
12 family, friend, and neighbor providers.

13 (c) The department shall select an antibias education regional
14 lead for each region identified pursuant to subdivision (b). In
15 selecting regional leads, the department shall give preference to
16 applicants that demonstrate any of the following:

17 (1) That the applicant has a history of providing antibias,
18 implicit bias, or antiracism training to early learning and care
19 providers, parents, teachers, or its own staff.

20 (2) That the applicant has a history of providing training that
21 is culturally competent and accessible to diverse communities,
22 including those that speak a language other than English.

23 (3) That the applicant has provided assistance or training to,
24 or has established relationships with networks or bargaining units
25 that represent, early learning and childcare providers that work
26 at centers, family childcare homes, family childcare home
27 networks, or are family, friend, or neighbor providers.

28 (4) That the applicant has the staff capacity, or has clearly
29 identified a plan to hire or contract to establish the capacity, to
30 provide antibias education to early learning and care providers
31 located in multiple counties.

32 (5) That the applicant has adopted a targeted universalism or
33 whole child approach to meeting the needs of children or has a
34 history of providing staff and family training on trauma-informed
35 care, offering health, mental health, and nutritional supports, and
36 including parents, guardians, and families in creating a welcoming,
37 safe, and liberating learning environment that embraces all
38 children's cultural, racial, and linguistic strengths.

39 (6) The applicant is applying in coordination with one or more
40 other organizations, including local First 5 Commissions, early

1 *childhood local planning councils, county offices of education,*
2 *resource and referral agencies, and alternative payment programs.*

3 (7) *The applicant is an equity-focused organization and has*
4 *staff with expertise or lived experience as a member of a community*
5 *that has been historically underserved or impacted by the effects*
6 *of sexism, racism, or systemic poverty.*

7 (d) *An antibias education regional lead selected by the*
8 *department shall offer antibias education to early learning and*
9 *education providers located in all counties in the region for which*
10 *it is the regional lead. The regional lead shall ensure that providers*
11 *from all counties in the region for which it is the regional lead can*
12 *access training and professional development by offering training*
13 *and professional development in various locations throughout the*
14 *region and by providing accessible virtual options.*

15 (e) *The department, in conjunction with the State Department*
16 *of Education, shall convene the antibias education regional leads*
17 *at regular intervals during the grant program to coordinate*
18 *activities and share resources, modules, and best practices.*

19 (f) (1) *Funding shall be allocated to each antibias education*
20 *regional lead based on the number of children in the region for*
21 *which it is the regional lead, as determined by the department.*
22 *However, a regional lead shall not receive less than two hundred*
23 *fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).*

24 (2) *Implementation of this section is contingent upon an*
25 *appropriation for these purposes in the annual Budget Act.*