



## California Community College Early Childhood Educators (CCCECE) position statement on proposed Online Community College

The California Community College Early Childhood Educators (CCCECE) have major concerns about the proposal for establishing an online community college. While we understand the intention of a fully online college, we contend that the existing CCC Early Childhood Education/Child Development (ECE/CD) programs are currently meeting the online needs of students throughout the state. We also maintain that offering all child development coursework in an online format without considering the need for proper clinical supervision and in person observation opportunities may have negative ramifications on the quality of ECE/CD workforce development and training of future teachers. The ECE/CD departments have aligned their coursework throughout the state of California with the ADT degree and C-ID, while also adhering to Title 5 requirements for supervision of practicum placements. All of this has been done in an effort to maintain quality in courses and programs throughout the state.

The 109 community colleges with Early Childhood Education/Child Development programs offer courses on campus in the traditional setting, in addition to the following online offerings:

- 85 colleges currently offer online courses
- At 80 of these colleges, it is possible to earn the first 12 units needed to become employed in the field after completing these units in a fully online format
- 25 of our colleges offer all the online courses which allow a person who is currently a teacher to become a fully qualified program director
- The Early Childhood Education career pathway is based on stackable certificates leading to a degree (if desired). The CA Child Development Permit Matrix provides an example of how this is built into the child development permit system. It is possible for these increasing certifications as shown in the career pathway to be obtained through online learning.

Given this, our concerns with the proposed Online Community College are:

- **Creating a completely online college which offers an Early Childhood Education/Child Development program would in fact compete with existing programs since students are currently enrolled in existing ECE/CD online classes all over the state.** We anticipate that the new online college would have tremendous financial support and therefore more marketing than existing CCC programs. Would it not be more cost effective to leverage current ECE/CD programs and support these existing programs to expand their existing online offerings? Existing programs are also justifiably concerned about the reasonable expectation that adding such a program would negatively impact enrollment throughout the state.
- **While much of the coursework in child development can be successfully delivered in a fully online environment, portions of the ECE/CD curriculum are intentionally delivered in a face-to-face or hybrid format.** This includes, but is not limited to, the clinical supervision (practicum) portion of our programs.
- **In person observations and lab experiences are crucial to support quality ECE/CD training programs.** Students who do not have opportunities to conduct in person observations and supervised lab experiences could impact students' ability to obtain a state permit ([CA Child Development Permit Matrix](#)) and ultimately their employability. Additionally, consistency must be maintained with the ADT degree, C-ID and CAP (Curriculum Alignment Project) alignment.



CCCECE

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

California Community Colleges Early Childhood Educators (CCCECE) has been the professional organization serving and acting on behalf of the needs of community college early childhood or child development departments and child development centers and lab programs in California for over 30 years. California Community Colleges are the primary training institutions for early childhood educators. Our mission is to advocate for high quality instruction in early care and education programs.

In summary, it is our position that the creation of a new online Community College would not provide new opportunity but would instead compete with the 109 existing vibrant Early Childhood Education/Child Development programs offered throughout the state, 85 of which currently offer viable distance/online access to degrees and certificates in Child Development, and which already serve our diverse population and the varied career training needs for quality teachers of young children.

*CCCECE Executive Board, February 2018*

*For more information on CCCECE go to: <http://cccece.net>*