Equity in Early Education

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Deputy Superintendent of Equity
Equitable Access to Early Learning and Care

• Harsh discipline and exclusionary practices in the early years disproportionately impact black students and students with disabilities.

• The California Department of Education’s (CDE’s) Early Learning and Care Division hosted a two-part webinar this year titled “Creating Brave Spaces in Early Childhood:”
  • Part 1: Strategies to interrupt and counteract bias, racism, and hate.
  • Part 2: How excluding, suspending, and expelling hurts children.
Building Equitable Child Serving Systems

• Inequities in learning settings are fueled by a complex array of issues that include individual and systemic bias, policies, and access to resources.

• Improving our child serving systems is key to supporting students and families.

• The 2021 Budget includes investments and opportunities to transform California’s’s system of care for children.
California’s Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

• The Budget included over $3 billion over the next few years to transform California’s behavioral health system for children into an innovative and **prevention-focused** system where all children and youth are routinely screened, supported, and served for emerging and existing behavioral health needs regardless of payer.

• The initiative includes school-linked partnership, capacity, and infrastructure grants to support behavioral health services in schools and school-linked settings.
Community Schools Partnership Act

• The Budget provided $2.8 billion for the CDE to administer the California Community Schools Partnership Act.

• Funding will serve to expand the statewide infrastructure to support community schools, which partner with families and communities to meet students' health, academic, and social emotional needs.

• Community schools offer integrated health, mental health, and social services alongside high-quality, supportive instruction.
Questions?

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ELCD Consultant Regional Assignments:
https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/assignments.asp
Thank you