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Report on Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: Implementation Plan for the State of California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — First 5 California and the California Department of Education (CDE) recently published a state implementation [plan](#) for early childhood professionals who work with young children. The document will help guide their support for every child's growth and development.

The plan is intended to serve as a roadmap for implementing a fully developed and articulated statewide system of certification, preparation, and support for California's early childhood education professionals. The document includes concrete objectives for creating real systems-level change within the plan that are achievable over the next five years.

Last year, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC) published [Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation](#). This national report was the catalyst for launching the state-level planning team in January 2016.

In an intensive nine-month process, the team discussed the recommendations from the IOM and NRC report, identified key priorities for California, and developed a plan for achieving these priorities. The team created a plan to support the state's goal that professionals working with young children in California are well-prepared to most effectively support every child's growth and development.

"This implementation plan is a major milestone, but our collective effort continues," said First 5 California Executive Director Camille Maben. Ms. Maben adds, "Our work is focused on achieving the objectives outlined in the plan and determining the specific actions necessary to do so."

First 5 California and CDE will continue to collaborate and align this work with other workgroups and councils. For the plan, updates, and supporting documents, please go to twb8-ca.net.

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About First 5 California

First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, which added a tax on tobacco products to fund education, health, childcare, and other services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. Its programs and resources are designed to educate teachers, parents, grandparents, and caregivers about the critical role they play during a child's first five years – with the overarching goal of helping more California kids grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. For more information, please visit www.cafc.ca.gov.