

The BEGIn Act

Increasing Access to Child Development Programs

The BEGIn Act significantly expands access to early childhood development programs for families across the District in order to reduce the achievement gap and level the playing field for children that struggle to catch up to their middle-income peers.

- ✔ **Increases reimbursement rates for providers caring for infants and toddlers so that the reimbursement equals the total cost of care for the children served.** Increasing reimbursement rates allows providers to recoup costs required to provide appropriate services for every infant and toddler, no matter their socioeconomic status or special education needs. The BEGIn Act's reimbursement rate model will allow more providers to accept child care vouchers, operate without a financial loss, increase pay for infant and toddler educators, and ensure high-quality programming for all children served.
- ✔ **Establishes a program for child development facilities to share services, which allows providers to focus on infant and toddler curriculum.** This initiative will allow early childhood development program providers to share services, like bulk purchasing and payroll support, to reduce individual provider costs, and to increase program efficiency by allowing providers to focus on infant and toddler curriculum.
- ✔ **Establishes an Infant and Toddler Educator Compensation Task Force to create a salary scale for infant and toddler educators.** The Task Force will create a salary scale based on factors deemed necessary to attract a talented workforce and ensure that infant and toddler educators are adequately compensated.
- ✔ **Expands the duties of the Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council.** The Act expands the duties of the Coordinating Council to allow it to review reimbursement rates and child development facility regulations. The Act also adds two seats on the Coordinating Council for an in-home provider and a center provider, to guarantee that each type of child development facility has the opportunity to express their unique perspectives and weigh in on issues that impact their work. The Coordinating Council will also determine how to drive more early childhood development resources to low-income communities.
- ✔ **Establishes an Office on Early Childhood Development within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to operate as a one-stop center for early childhood development program providers.** The Office will streamline the facility licensing process, provide regulatory guidance, assist with financing opportunities, and provide training opportunities to child development program providers. This streamlined process will encourage the expansion of more child development programs around the District.
- ✔ **Provides tax benefits to property owners that lease space to child development facilities.** The Act requires the Mayor to determine the District's "priority areas," which are areas in need of additional quality child development programs, and rewards property owners that lease space to early childhood development program providers in priority areas.
- ✔ **Establishes an Infant and Toddler Facilities Grant Program.** The program will help child development program providers build, expand, and improve child development facilities.