

December 23, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHILD CARE BULLETIN (CCB) NO. 25-34

(In this area, provide a brief high-level summary of who this letter is intended for, what this letter is about, and why the Department is issuing this letter.)



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DIRECTOR

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December 23, 2025

CHILD CARE BULLETIN (CCB) NO. 25-34

GUIDANCE TYPE: DIRECTIVE

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHILD CARE COORDINATORS
ALL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: MANDATORY TRANSITION TO THE UPDATED DESIRED RESULTS DEVELOPMENT PROFILE (DRDP) 2025

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: GENERAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
MIGRANT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME EDUCATION NETWORKS

REFERENCE: [5CCR § 18270.5](#); [5 CCR § 18272 DEVELOPMENT PROFILE](#); [5 CCR § 18274 STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM](#); [5 CCR § 18279 PROGRAM SELF EVALUATION PROCESS](#); [5 CCR § 18280 PARENT SURVEY](#); [5 CCR § 18281 ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALES](#); [42 U.S. CODE § 9858c](#); [FEDERAL REGULATIONS TITLE 45 CFR PART 98](#)

Purpose

The purpose of this Child Care Bulletin (CCB) is to inform General Child Care and Development (CCTR), Migrant General Child Care and Development (CMIG), Family Child Care Home Education Networks (CFCC), and Child Care and Development Programs for Children with Special Needs (CHAN) contractors about the updated Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) 2025. Effective July 1, 2026, the DRDP 2025 will be the child assessment tool that must be used by CCTR, CMIG, CHAN, and CFCC contractors. The DRDP is a cornerstone of California's quality improvement framework and ensures consistent, developmental assessment of all children served in publicly funded programs.

This transition aligns with California’s commitment to quality improvement and creating early education systems where every child is valued and supported to succeed.

Background

The DRDP is a document that records information in a child’s developmental profile ([5 CCR, § 18270.5\(b\)](#)) A “developmental profile” is defined as:

“... a record of a child's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development that is used to inform teachers and parents about a child's developmental progress in meeting desired results. In center-based programs, teacher and parent observations shall be included as part of the information used to complete the child's developmental profile. In family child care home networks, the observations of agency staff, in consultation with providers, and parents shall be included as part of the information used to complete the child's developmental profile.”

The DRDP was revised in 2025 and includes updates informed by current research and early education staff feedback from the field to improve alignment with California Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Foundations, Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations and Head Start Early Learning Outcomes: Ages Birth to Five Framework. The Child Care and Development Division (CCDD) adopted DRDP 2025 as the official developmental assessment tool for CCTR, CMIG, CFCC, and CHAN contractors.

The federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, codified at [42 U.S.C. § 9857 et seq.](#), and implemented through Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations ([45 CFR\) Part 98](#), requires states to ensure access to high-quality early learning environments for children through developmentally appropriate practices, developmental screenings, appropriate assessments, individualized instruction, and provider training. Consistent with these requirements, the DRDP 2025 supports practices serving children with diverse learning needs, including dual language learners and children with disabilities.

Guidance

Effective July 1, 2026, CCTR, CMIG, CFCC, and CHAN contractors benefiting from CCDD funds must:

1. Complete the age-appropriate DRDP 2025 view for each infant, toddler, preschooler and school-age child enrolled in the contracted center-based or family child care home education programs for at least ten hours per week ([5 CCR § 18272\(a\)](#));
2. Complete the DRDP 2025 with any necessary accommodation and adaptations for each child with exceptional needs, even if the child is enrolled for less than ten hours per week ([5 CCR § 18272\(d\)](#));
3. Complete an age-appropriate DRDP 2025 view within 60 calendar days of a child’s enrollment date. Contractors must complete age-appropriate DRDP 2025 view

assessments at least once every six months for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children ([5 CCR § 18272\(b\)](#));

4. Use the [DRDP Online System](#) to document, store, analyze assessment data and generate child and parent's progress and guidance reports;
5. Apply the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) 2025 results and outcomes to plan and conduct age and developmentally appropriate activities, and guide individualized learning opportunities, communication, and family communication ([5 CCR § 18272\(c\)](#));
6. Identify staff training needs, provide training by authorized trainers, and utilize appropriate support provided through CDSS-approved professional training opportunities. Additional information regarding support and CDSS-approved professional training is described below ([5 CCR § 18274](#)); and
7. Include in its program a parent involvement and education component. As part of this requirement, contractors must: conduct an orientation for parents which must include specified topics, hold at least two individual conferences with the parents of children per year to discuss each child's developmental progress and needs, provide opportunities for parents to meet with program staff, include an open door policy that encourages parents to participate in daily activities when possible.
8. Develop and implement annual plans for program self-evaluation, and it is recommended that they utilize available training and support resources and consult with their assigned Program Quality and Improvement (PQI) Consultants when additional assistance is needed to address identified areas requiring improvement ([5 CCR 18279](#))

Contract Monitoring and Program Self-Evaluation

The CDSS will monitor and provide technical assistance on the DRDP 2025 requirements through the contract monitoring review process using the [Program Integrity Monitoring Tool](#). The annual program self-evaluation requirements include analyzing DRDP data and using the information to develop program goals. The monitoring review process includes reviewing documentation verifying the contractor's implementation of the DRDP, Education Program, Environment Rating Scales, and Program Self-Evaluation requirements. 5 CCR§ [18281](#) and [18279](#) respectively).

Contractors are required to develop and implement annual plans for program self-evaluation, and it is recommended that they utilize available training and support, as well as consult with their assigned PQI Consultants when additional assistance is needed to address identified areas for improvement ([5 CCR § 18279](#)). Beginning July 1, 2026, the use of the DRDP 2025 will also be reviewed as part of contract monitoring, with consultants

providing support and technical assistance to ensure successful DRDP 2025 implementation.

Support and CDSS-Approved Training

West Ed is contracted to conduct DRDP 2025 Training of Trainers (ToTs) and will develop and deliver DRDP training content, including in-person or virtual training sessions and webinars through the California Early Childhood Online platform. The CDSS will collaborate with WestEd's Desired Results Training and Technical Assistance team to provide:

- DRDP 2025 training sessions (virtual and in-person)
- Updated implementation guidance and handbooks
- Support with DRDP Online platform setup and data entry
- Regional technical assistance and office hours

Contractors are encouraged to begin transition planning immediately and ensure all staff are trained in the new DRDP (2025) prior to the implementation deadline of **July 1, 2026**.

If you are a contractor and have any questions regarding the information in this CCB, contact your assigned Program Quality and Improvement Consultant. The list of assigned consultants can be found on the [Child Care and Development Contacts](#).

For any further questions or any additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, email CRRP@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

LUPE JAIME MILEHAM, EdD
Deputy Director
Child Care and Development Division