

Child Development Center (CDC) Analysis

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The Child Development Center provides child care and developmentally appropriate education for children of students, community members, faculty and staff of Skyline College. In addition to giving student parents an opportunity to pursue their education, it provides students in the Early Childhood Education Program an opportunity to observe the care, services and program implemented at the Child Development Center. The CDC is funded primarily by a state grant and by the general fund of the college and the district, with a small amount of revenue from non-subsidized parents (students and staff).

Overview of the Child Development Center students and parents

- There are 50 children enrolled.
- Of the 49 parents, 42 are currently enrolled as Skyline students (two of these enrolled students are also Skyline Staff); an additional student was enrolled at CSM.
- The student characteristics of the student parents and other parents:
 - 35 of the 42 students are women.
 - All of the 42 students are low income and receive a state subsidy for their child care.
 - Very diverse.
- Enrollment characteristics and FTES:
 - The number of hours student-parents can use the center is tied to the number of units they take.
 - The 42 students are taking a total of 367 units, or an average of 8.7 units per student.
 - The 42 students are currently estimated to produce 20.38 FTES in fall 2009.
 - The 42 students account for 153 course enrollments in fall 2009, or an average of 3.8 courses per student.
- Non parent students who may benefit from CDC services as an observation or work study site:
 - 2007-08, there were 864 students enrolled in Early childhood Development Classes
 - 2008-09, 40 students graduated with an AS in ECE and 40 students received certificates in the field.

Overview of the Child Development Center as a Lab Site for Early Childhood Education and other programs

- Students in the ECE program are required to select from several sites to complete child and program observations and student teaching requirements. Approximately 200 ECE students per year use the CDC to complete the observation or student teaching requirement.
 - The CDC serves as a lab-site for the ECE Department, one of the largest career technical education programs in the district serving 400-450 students per semester.

- Four ECE courses have assignments related to the CDC including observing child development, student teaching, observing the program, and observing the environment.
- Approximately 75 students per year use the site to observe child development in the ECE/Psyc 201 Course
- Approximately 6-10 students per year are placed at the site for their student teaching assignment.
- Approximately 20 students per year use the CC to observe the children and the program in ECE 333.
- Approximately 80 students per year use the site to observe the Environment and Curriculum in ECE 211.

Functions of the Skyline Child Development Center in terms of child care and development for children of student parents

- Provides child care service for 42 Skyline students
 - Convenient due to location on campus, so transportation is simplified for parents who drive to the college.
 - Convenient location for parents who use the bus as a means of transportation.
 - Supports access to higher education for low income students
 - Supports retention of Skyline students
 - Parents are able to fully focus on their studies knowing their child is safe and close.
 - Graduation rates of student parents receiving campus child care are higher than campus counterparts.
 - Student parents are more likely to remain in school and graduate in fewer years.
 - They demonstrate higher rates of persistence.
- Convenient child care service for 4 Skyline staff
 - 3 full pay
 - 1 subsidized.

Funding and budget effects of the CDC

- State grant of \$305K covering about 54 percent of the staff and operating costs
- College and district funding of about \$270K:
 - \$60K covered by Skyline's Fund 1 budget, an amount that is rising over time due to the fact that the state support level is static support while salary costs rise
 - \$210K is paid for by the district, an amount that is also rising over time due to the fact that benefits costs continue to rise the Facilities work order costs continue to rise
- Budget effects (or trade-off) to consider: District savings would offset college budget cut needed in the first year, and if benefits costs are shifted to the colleges (in general) then the savings would be ongoing.
- New public policy has implications for the possible availability of additional funds. Attention to the readiness gap is situating California to apply for related ARRA funds (Early Learning Challenge Grants). The timeline is not certain.

Alternatives available

- Subcontract with a local child care provider
 - Pros:
 - College and district no longer carry the excess costs.
 - The state subsidy would continue.
 - The subcontract could be terminated and the CDC reinstated at a future point in time.
 - Cons:
 - Job loss for the six classified staff in the center
 - Skyline students would not have priority for service at an off-site location; they would be competing with all other users of the service.
 - Child care workers would not be part of the district and so pay and benefits would be lower
 - The quality of the child care might not be of the same quality as that provided in the Skyline CDC
 - Convenience is lost for parents, the degree depending on the proximity of the alternative site.
 - Parents that take public transportation might not be able to take their children to another site and might have to quit their classes.
 - Convenience is lost for students in ECE and other disciplines that would need to go off site to do observations.
 - Skyline would not have such an appealing Early Childhood Education Program due to lack of having a high quality observation center.
 - Unknowns which need to be addressed if we were to move the service off-site
 - Is there a local provider available? Probably.
 - How close to the college would it be? Unknown.
- Suspend child care service associated with the college and stop receiving the state subsidy
 - Pros:
 - College and district would no longer carry the cost of subsidy of \$270K per year.
 - Cons:
 - Job loss for the six classified staff in the center
 - The state subsidy is lost resulting in higher costs for child care for Skyline student parents and staff parents.
 - Convenience is lost for parents, the degree depending on the proximity of the alternative site.
 - Convenience is lost for students in ECE and other disciplines that would need to go off site to do observations.