

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL TK ON SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

December 2022



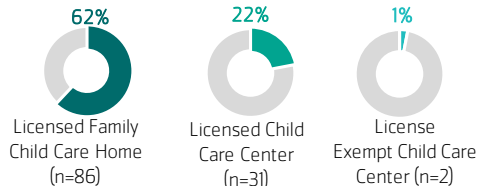
YMCA COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Between October and November 2022, the YMCA Childcare Resource Service surveyed 105 Licensed Family Child Care Homes, 32 Licensed Child Care Centers, and 2 License-Exempt Child Care Centers regarding the impact that Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) has had on their child care facility and their staff within the last year. Responses from this survey reinforces the ideas found in [An Inclusive Framework: Designing and Implementing Universal Prekindergarten in California](#) reiterating the need for a system that honors parent choice, providing options for what's best for children that is high-quality, equitable, and inclusive.

UTK in it's current model threatens the future of the child care industry.

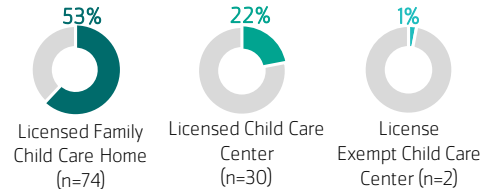
UTK IMPACT ON CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

REDUCTION IN ENROLLMENTS FOR 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN



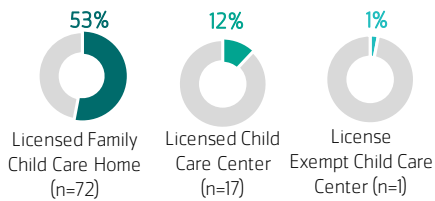
"An intentional implementation of the TK expansion policy should account for child care providers as entrepreneurs who need to sustain their businesses." – An Inclusive Framework p. 28

UNENROLLMENT DUE TO SERVICES OFFERED BY UTK



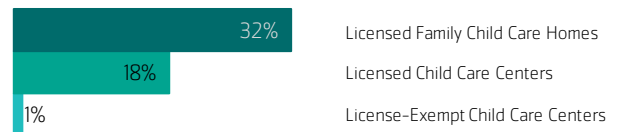
"If providers cannot maintain their enrollment numbers, they will have no choice but to close their businesses." – An Inclusive Framework p. 28

REDUCTION IN HOURS OF CARE NEEDED FOR 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN



6 Average number of vacancies that would normally be filled with 4 year old children

PROVIDERS WHO HAD PARENTS CHOOSE NOT TO ENROLL IN UTK



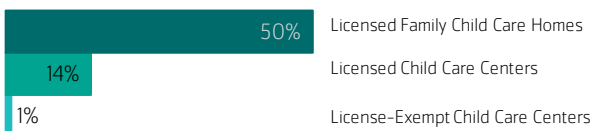
Example of why a parent did not choose to enroll in UTK

"Por el horario que tengo en mi programa es mas extenso, la atención personalizada que les doy a los Niños La comida que les doy y el ambiente familiar para ellos es muy importante."

Due to the hours that I offer my program is more successful, the personalized attention that I give children the food that I give them in the family environment is very important to them" – Licensed Family Child Care Home

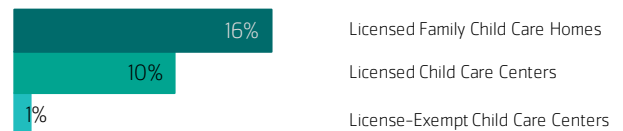
UTK IMPACT ON STAFFING

PROVIDERS WHO INDICATED UTK HAS IMPACTED THEIR STAFFING



"Staff have left for UTK positions or to enroll in education pathways leading to UTK positions. Potential staffing pools are extremely shallow." – Licensed Child Care Center

PROVIDERS WHO HAD STAFF LEAVE FOR UTK JOBS



"Loss of teaching staff and assistants to the UTK program at SDUSD." – Licensed Child Care Center

NEXT STEPS

How to Continue Supporting Child Care Providers, Families, and Children



Build out and fully fund a Universal Transitional Kindergarten model that honors family choice

1. Families have the right to choose from high-quality, culturally-appropriate early education that better serves children and working families.
2. This system should be inclusive of child care centers; family child care homes; family, friend, and neighbor care; Head Start; and public school options.
3. Learn from other states on successful implementation strategies
4. Work inclusively in planning and implementation of TK programs to include the local child care sector, out-of-school time providers, and parent perspectives.



Increase child care rates to sustain the existing sector and help create a viable business model to encourage new early educators to join the sector

1. “Develop an equitable system for child care subsidy vouchers that bases reimbursement on enrollment and not attendance” – [An Inclusive Framework](#)
2. Utilize the state’s [Rate Reform Study](#) and recommendations to take steps towards addressing the true cost of quality care across California.
3. Concentrate efforts on supplementing the high cost of infant and toddler slots to sustain this part of the sector and encourage new slots for 0-3 year olds.



Continue to assess impact for children, families, child care providers, and Transitional Kindergarten teachers

1. Continue having continuous quality improvement metrics to understand the impact that the implementation of UTK – short term and long term – may have on these groups. Metrics can include success indicators of developmentally appropriate and specific TK curriculum, facilities, training support, supports to working families.
2. Continue to use the voices and experiences of these groups to build more equitable child care opportunities.

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OUR COMMITMENT: YMCA Childcare Resource Service partners with people who care for children, connects them to innovative services, cultivates belonging among diverse identities, amplifies existing strengths and meets the unique needs of our community.

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Learn more about [An Inclusive Framework](#)