

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2092 (Bonta) – As Amended April 23, 2026

Policy Committee:	Human Services	Vote:	7 - 0
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		15 - 0

Urgency: No                      State Mandated Local Program: No                      Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) under the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to link data across programs serving children from birth to five years of age. The bill requires CDSS to convene a task force to guide system development and implementation of the system and to annually report to the Legislature on its progress.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Establishes the statewide ECIDS under CDSS and requires CDSS to assume statewide leadership and coordination of the data system. Requires the system to link data across programs serving children from birth to five year of age, provide actionable insights, and provide necessary linked data to conduct audits and evaluations of federal- or state-supported early childhood programs, to enforce or comply with legal requirements that relate to those programs, and to allow for the creation of deidentified datasets for public purposes, subject to all applicable privacy laws.
- 2) Requires the taskforce to be composed of a data privacy expert and a representative from specified state departments and relevant entities.
- 3) Requires the taskforce to provide information and advise CDSS on early learning and care data by, among other tasks: (a) conducting a comprehensive landscape analysis, (b) guiding decisions regarding strategic planning, data-ingestion procedures, security policies, and metrics, (c) facilitating the sharing of existing data across state entities, (d) developing and implementing an interest-holder engagement plan, and (e) developing a data system.
- 4) Requires CDSS and taskforce members to establish data-sharing agreements through memoranda of understanding (MOU) that capture shared intent to collaborate and develop the data system, as specified.
- 5) Requires the taskforce to meet at least quarterly until the data system is implemented and to annually report to the Legislature on the progress in developing, establishing, and operating the data system.
- 6) Requires CDSS to ingest data, sourced from administrative data systems maintained by each data provider, and limit as specified.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

CDSS estimates ongoing General Fund costs of \$3.5 million annually for seven IT specialists required to build out the systems and ensure security for the new data system, seven staff research data specialists to conduct research and analysis, implement data linkages, and collaborate on the task force, and two additional analysts to draft ongoing legislative reports, help develop data sharing agreements, and obtain internal and external feedback needed to develop the agreements.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

#### COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Currently, California's early childhood data are siloed within multiple individual agencies, meaning agencies cannot track how children are doing across programs and are unable to serve children appropriately. CDSS, the Department of Education (CDE), and the Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) all collect early childhood data. However, no one agency has the authority to gather the data from the other agencies. This leaves us with a disjointed system, where we cannot track how our children are doing holistically. [This bill] addresses this issue by giving statutory authority to DSS to gather all early childhood data across agencies and develop the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to track these data.

2) **ECIDS.** California administers early childhood programs serving children from birth to five years of age through multiple state agencies, including CDSS, the California Department of Education, the California Department of Developmental Services, and various health and human services programs. Each agency collects and maintains its own data systems to administer services such as subsidized childcare, preschool, developmental services, health programs, and nutrition assistance. Because these systems were developed independently, they often operate separately and rely on different data standards, definitions, and reporting structures. As a result, the state lacks a unified system to consistently link or analyze data across early childhood programs. This fragmentation limits the state's ability to understand how children and families move between programs, identify gaps in access to services, and assess how different services collectively support early childhood development and influence longer-term outcomes.

ECIDS are designed to address these challenges by linking data across programs and agencies that serve young children and their families. By integrating data from multiple sources, states can better understand service utilization and how participation in early childhood programs influences developmental, educational, and family outcomes. Research organizations, such as Child Trends, find that ECIDS can help identify disparities in access, monitor outcomes, improve coordination, and reduce duplication. Consistent with these findings, California's 2020 Master Plan for Early Learning and Care identified the development of a statewide ECIDS as a key strategy to strengthen the state's early learning infrastructure.

- 3) **Opposition.** Recent amendments alleviated most of the concerns of the opposition, Oakland Privacy, who has moved to an oppose unless amended position and indicates they continue to work with the author.

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