



# La Plazita Preschool

www.laplazitapreschool.com  
3625 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland, CA 94602  
(510) 402-8715

May 13, 2026

Re: New Fire regulations response letter

To Whom it may concern,

This is Krystell Guzman the CEO of a company of Spanish Immersion Daycare and Preschools in the Bay Area. We currently have 5 Childcare Centers in the Oakland and San Leandro called La Plazita Preschool. We continue to be concerned with the new regulations of requiring new centers to adhere to stricter fire sprinkler regulations for children under 36 months. Prior regulations required fire sprinklers for children under 24 months but the new language is expanding this to fire sprinklers required for children under 3 years old. The justification in the reports state "no financial impact expected by the public". This is completely untrue and should be addressed. Child Care centers are being closed down at alarming rates. We are balancing having lost all of the older children that were integrated into school district TK programs. Most of us don't have the ability to care for younger children due to the fire sprinklers required for children under 2. That leaves us with only 3 year olds to care for but the new regulations will remove this age group as well since none of our buildings have fire sprinklers except for one. Day care centers will be left with no viable age groups to care for and will further cause us to close our centers and completely impede the ability to open any new centers.

Please see the attached article of impact on childcares that have closed due to the removal of all 4 year olds for expanded TK programs.

Article on number of Child Care Centers closing

<https://www.kqed.org/news/12082904/as-transitional-kindergarten-grows-hundreds-of-child-care-centers-close>

Now to open new childcares or make changes to existing centers there will be a requirement that caring for children under 36 months will require fire sprinklers. This will make it impossible for non-National Chains such as small business owners or small daycare providers to be able to transition to opening a center. As we all know, the majority of buildings in urban or even non urban areas do not have fire sprinklers. Adding Fire sprinklers is an insurmountable cost which triggers the following:

Permit from EBMUD to get water to front of building \$36,000-35,000 permit only

Architectural design for fire sprinkler installation: \$10K

Installation for fire sprinklers: \$150 K

Triggers to plumbing and electrical due to new system: \$50K

Rent during the time changes are made to building: \$10-30K



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As a committee I think it is really important to communicate the financial impact of these changes and promote the idea of discretion being a good thing but that is also very dependent on interpretation which is a problem that is now arbitrary. Going back to the initial parameters which require fire sprinklers for children under two should be a priority so that the child care centers that are left can care for 3 year olds without needing to add fire sprinklers. Yes we are aware that this is for new centers but the impact on new providers trying to open child care centers will make doing so impossible and we will further see the industry dismantled due to the lack of capital available to small business owners to open new centers.

Thank you for your attention to this and hopefully we can work together to push the financial information forward so that there will be a significant impact on the ability for building much needed childcare spaces.

Thank you

Krystell Guzman Electronically signed  
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