

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Board of Trustees recognizes the value of high-quality preschool experiences to enhance children's social-emotional development, knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes necessary for a successful transition into the elementary education program. The Board desires to provide children ages 3-4 years access to developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, adequately supervised, and cognitively rich environment.

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall collaborate with the local child care and development planning council, the county office of education, other public agencies, organizations, and/or private preschool providers to assess the availability of preschool programs in the community and the extent to which the community's preschool needs are being met. The Board encourages the development of a comprehensive districtwide and/or countywide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall provide information about preschool options in the community to parents/guardians upon request.

District Preschool Programs

When the Board determines that it is feasible, the district may contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide preschool services in facilities at or near the district school, either directly or through a subcontract with a public or private provider.

District preschool programs shall comply with all health and safety laws and regulations, including, when applicable, licensure requirements pursuant to 22 CCR 101156.

The Board shall approve, for the district's preschool program, a written philosophical statement, goals, and objectives that reflect the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the families to be served and address the program components specified in 5 CCR 18272-18281 and the accompanying administrative regulation. (5 CCR 18271)

The Board shall set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available, giving consideration to the benefits of providing early education programs for at-risk children.

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Preschool classroom needs shall be addressed in the district's facilities master plan, including an assessment as to whether adequate and appropriate space exists on the school site. As necessary, the Superintendent/Principal or designee shall provide information to the Board regarding facilities financing options for preschool classrooms and/or facilities available through partnering organizations or agencies.

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(cf. 1330.1 - Joint Use Agreements)
(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)
(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

Because parents/guardians are essential partners in supporting the development of their children, the Superintendent/Principal or designee shall involve them in program planning.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall coordinate the district's preschool program, transitional kindergarten program (TK), and elementary education program to provide a developmental continuum that builds upon children's growing skills and knowledge.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

The district's program shall be aligned with preschool learning foundations and curriculum frameworks developed by CDE which identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies that children typically attain as they complete their first or second year of preschool. The program shall be designed to facilitate children's development in essential skills in the areas of language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The district's preschool program shall provide appropriate services to support the needs of at-risk children.

(cf. 0415 - Equity)
(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)
(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

To maximize the ability of children to succeed in the preschool program, the program shall support children's health through proper nutrition and physical activity and shall provide or make referrals to available health and social services as needed.

(cf. 3550 - Food Services/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)
(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

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The district shall encourage volunteerism in the program and shall communicate frequently with parents/guardians of enrolled children regarding their child's progress.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall ensure that administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in district preschool programs possess the appropriate permit(s) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, meet any additional qualifications established by the Board, and participate in professional development opportunities designed to continually enhance their knowledge and skills.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 4112.5/4212.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Preschool admissions policies and procedures shall be in writing and available to the public. Such policies and procedures shall include criteria designating those children whose needs can be met by the program and services, the ages of children who will be accepted, program activities, any supplementary services provided, any field trip provisions, any transportation arrangements, food service provisions, and a health examination requirement. (CCR 18105; 22 CCR 101218)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall ensure that subsidized preschool is provided to eligible families to the extent that state and/or federal funding is available and shall establish enrollment priorities in accordance with Education Code 8263 and 5 CCR 18106.

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall develop and implement an annual plan of evaluation which conforms to state requirements. (5 CCR 18279)

The district's Williams uniform complaint procedures, with modifications as necessary, shall be used to investigate and resolve complaints alleging violation of applicable health or safety requirements for license-exempt programs operating under the California State Preschool Program. However, licensed programs shall refer complaints alleging health and safety violations to the California Department of Social Services. (Education Code 8235.5; 5 CCR 4610, 4611)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding enrollment in district preschool programs and the effectiveness of the programs in preparing preschoolers for transition into the elementary education program.

BP 5148.3(d)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8200-8499.10 *Child Care and Development Services Act, especially:*
8200-8209 *General provisions for child care and development services*
8230-8233 *Migrant child care and development program*
8235-8239.1 *California State Preschool Program*
8240-8244 *General child care and development programs*
8250-8252 *Programs for children with special needs*
8263 *Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services*
8263.3 *Disenrollment of families due to reduced funding levels*
8264.8 *Center-based child care programs, staffing ratios*
8273.1 *Family fees*
8360-8370 *Personnel qualifications*
8400-8409 *Contracts, administrative appeal procedure*
8493-8498 *Facilities, capital outlay*
8499.3-8499.7 *Local child care and development planning councils*
44065 *Interchange between certificated and classified positions*
44256 *Credential types*
48000 *Transitional kindergarten*
48985 *Notification, primary language other than English*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1596.70-1596.895 *California Child Day Care Act*
1596.90-1597.21 *Day care centers*
120325-120380 *Immunization requirements*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4680-4687 *Williams uniform complaint procedures*
18000-18434 *Child care and development programs, especially:*
18130-18136 *California State Preschool Program*
18295 *Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor*
80105-80125 *Permits authorizing service in child development programs*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101151-101239.2 *General requirements, licensed child care centers, especially:*
101151-101163 *Licensing and application procedures*
101212-101231 *Continuing requirements*
101237-101239.2 *Facilities and equipment*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*
6311-6322 *Title I, relative to preschool*
6371-6376 *Early Reading First*
6381-6381k *Even Start family literacy programs*
6391-6399 *Education of migratory children*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

9831-9852c *Head Start programs*
9857-9858r *Child Care and Development Block Grant*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

1301.1-1305.2 *Head Start*

Management Resources: (see next page)

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Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Preschool Learning Foundations

Dream Big for Our Youngest Children: Final Report of the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee, 2010

Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009

Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000

First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2016

Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association for the Education of Young Children: <http://www.caeyc.org>

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association: <http://www.ccsesa.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Head Start Association: <http://caheadstart.org>

California Preschool Instructional Network: <http://www.cpin.us>

Child Development Policy Institute: <http://www.cdpi.net>

Cities, Counties, and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>

First 5 Association of California: <http://www.ccfc.ca.gov>

National Institute for Early Education Research: <http://nieer.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

When approved by the California Department of Education (CDE) under the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), the district may operate one or more part-day preschool programs in accordance with law and the terms of its contract with CDE.

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

The district's preschool program shall include all required program components, as described in 5 CCR 18272-18281 and AR 5148 - Child Care and Development, for the educational program, the creation of a developmental profile for each child, staff development, parent involvement and education, community involvement, health and social services, nutrition, and program evaluation. (5 CCR 18271-28281)

Minimum Hours/Days of Operation

The district's part-day preschool program shall operate a minimum of three hours per day, excluding time for home-to-school transportation, and for a minimum of 175 days per year unless otherwise specified in the program's contract. (Education Code 8235; 5 CCR 18136)

Staffing

The preschool program shall maintain an adult-child ratio of at least one adult for every eight children and a teacher-child ratio of at least one teacher for every 24 children. If the district cannot recruit a sufficient number of parents/guardians or volunteers to meet the required adult-child ratio, teacher aides shall be hired as necessary. (5 CCR 18135, 18290)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Any person employed at the district preschool and any volunteer who provides care and supervision to children at the preschool shall, unless exempted by law, be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles in accordance with Health and Safety Code 1596.7995 and AR 5148 - Child Care and Development. Documentation of required immunizations, or applicable exemptions, shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file. (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

In addition, preschool teachers shall present evidence of a current tuberculosis clearance and meet other requirements as specified in Health and Safety Code 1597.055.

Eligibility and Enrollment

Children eligible for the district's CSPP program include those who will have their third or fourth birthday on or before December 1 of the fiscal year that they are being served. Children who have their third birthday on or after December 2 may be enrolled on or after their third birthday. (Education Code 8208, 8235, 8236)

AR 5148.3(b)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Combined Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Classroom

When a child is eligible for both the preschool program and the district's TK program, the district may place the child in a classroom which is commingled with children from both programs as long as the commingled program meets all of the requirements of each program as well as the following requirements: (Education Code 8235, 48000)

1. An early childhood environment rating scale, as specified in 5 CCR 18281, shall be completed for the classroom.
2. All children enrolled for 10 or more hours per week shall be evaluated using the Desired Results Developmental Profile, as specified in 5 CCR 18272.
3. The classroom shall be taught by a teacher who holds a credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in accordance with Education Code 44065 and 44256.
4. The classroom shall comply with the adult-child ratio specified in Education Code 8264.8.
5. Contractors of the district shall report the services, revenues, and expenditures for children in the preschool program in accordance with 5 CCR 18068.
6. The classroom shall not include children enrolled in TK for a second year or children enrolled in a regular kindergarten classroom.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

Expulsion/Unenrollment Based on Behavior

A district preschool program shall not expel or unenroll a child based on the child's behavior, unless the district first takes the following actions to address the child's behavior: (Education Code 8239.1)

1. Inform the parents/guardians of the child's persistent and serious challenging behaviors and consult with the parents/guardians and teacher in an effort to maintain the child's safe participation in the program
2. If the child has an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or individualized education program (IEP), with written parent/guardian consent, contact the agency or district employee responsible for such plan or program to seek consultation in regard to serving the child

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(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

3. If the child does not have an IFSP or IEP, consider if it is appropriate to complete a universal screening of the child, including, but not limited to, screening the child's social and emotional development, referring the parents/guardians to community resources, implementing behavior supports within the program, and considering an IEP for the child

If the district has taken the actions specified in items #1-3 above and the child's continued enrollment would present a serious safety threat to the child or other enrolled children, the district shall refer the parents/guardians to other potentially appropriate placements, the local child care resource and referral agency, or any other referral service available in the local community. Within 180 days of the start of the process, the district may unenroll the child. (Education Code 8239.1)

Children with disabilities may only be suspended or expelled in conformance with the procedures and limitations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.