

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Preschool/Early Childhood Education

BP 5148.3

Students

Note: The following optional policy may be used by districts that operate their own preschool/early childhood education programs and/or collaborate to provide preschool opportunities within the community; see the appropriate sections below. CSBA's publication *Expanding Access to High-Quality Preschool Programs* provides information about characteristics of effective preschool programs and actions that the district and Governing Board can take to encourage and/or provide high-quality preschool education, including a worksheet to assist districts in the development of policy pertaining to preschool and early childhood education.

The Governing Board recognizes that high-quality preschool experiences help children ages 3-4 years to develop knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes necessary for a successful transition into the elementary education program. Early education programs should provide developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, adequately supervised, and cognitively rich environment.

Collaboration with Community Programs

Note: The following optional section may be used by all districts, regardless of whether or not they provide their own preschool programs, and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Note: Education Code 8499-8499.7 establish county-level child care and development planning councils, with members selected by the County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools, to identify local priorities for child care, including preschool programs, and to develop policies to meet identified needs; see BP 5148 - Child Care and Development. Such councils also may develop centralized student eligibility lists; see section on "Eligibility and Enrollment" in the accompanying administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child care and development planning council, other public agencies, organizations, the county office of education, 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. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

District Preschool Programs

Note: The following optional section is for use by districts that choose to provide preschool/early childhood education programs for children ages 3-4 years and should be revised to reflect district practice.

Note: The district may contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) to offer a program through the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) pursuant to Education Code 8235-8239. The CSPP consolidates a number of state programs that serve children ages 3-4, including state preschool programs (Education Code 8235-8237), family literacy programs (Education Code 8238-8238.4), and general child care and development programs to the extent that they serve children ages 3-4 (Education Code 8240-8244). Children ages 3-4 years from low-income or otherwise disadvantaged families may be eligible for subsidized services. See the accompanying administrative regulation for major program requirements for CSPP.

Note: Preschool programs also may receive funding through the state migrant child care and development program (Education Code 8230-8233), state program for severely disabled children (Education Code 8250-8252), federal Head Start program (42 USC 9831-9852), Title I preschool program (20 USC 6311-6322), or other funding sources available to the district.

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 district schools.

Note: 5 CCR 18130 specifies the state regulations for child care and development programs that are applicable to CSPP programs, including the requirement in 5 CCR 18271 that the Board approve a written philosophical statement, goals, and objectives addressing each program component specified in 5 CCR 18272-18281. See the accompanying administrative regulation and AR 5148 - Child Care and Development for further information about these required program components.

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 and/or children residing in the attendance areas of the lowest performing district schools.

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 8236, districts have the authority to subcontract with an appropriate public or private agency to operate a district CSPP program.

On a case-by-case basis, the Board shall determine whether the district shall directly administer a preschool program or contract with a public or private provider to offer such a program.

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

(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 or designee shall involve them in program planning.

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

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48000, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and December 2 must be offered a transitional kindergarten (TK) program which operates as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program; see BP 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten. The following optional paragraph provides for coordination of the preschool program with the TK program and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate planning efforts for the district's preschool program, transitional kindergarten program, 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)

Note: The CDE has developed voluntary "preschool learning foundations" which describe the knowledge, skills, and competencies that children are expected to exhibit as they complete their first or second year of preschool. These standards address essential skills in the subject areas listed below. The standards and companion preschool curriculum frameworks are available on CDE's web site.

The district's program shall be aligned with preschool learning foundations and curriculum

frameworks developed by the 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 related to 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 English learners and children with disabilities.

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

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)

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)

Note: The Commission on Teacher Credentialing issues permits for child development program directors, site supervisors, master teachers, teachers, associate teachers, and assistants pursuant to criteria established in Education Code 8360-8370 and 5 CCR 80105-80125. The district may request from the CDE a waiver of the qualification requirements for a site supervisor upon demonstration of a compelling need, in accordance with Education Code 8208(aa) and 5 CCR 18295.

Note: Health and Safety Code 1596.7995, as added by SB 792 (Ch. 807, Statutes of 2015), requires that employees and volunteers at a preschool be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles, with specified exemptions. In addition, Health and Safety Code 1597.055, as amended by SB 792, requires that preschool teachers obtain a tuberculosis clearance. See the accompanying administrative regulation.

Note: Professional development resources pertaining to preschool/early childhood education are available through the CDE, California Preschool Instructional Network, and others. See the management resources below.

***Note: Education Code 8450 authorizes the district to create a reserve fund and use 10 percent

of it for purposes of professional development for CSPP instructional staff.***

The Superintendent 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)

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 18130, CSPP programs are subject to the requirements of 5 CCR 18105. 5 CCR 18105 mandates that districts offering a CSPP program develop written admissions policies and procedures that conform to the requirements of 22 CCR 101218, as provided in the following paragraph. See the accompanying administrative regulation for additional language that fulfills this mandate.

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)

Note: Education Code 8263 and 5 CCR 18106 establish eligibility criteria and priorities for subsidized preschool services, as provided below and in the accompanying administrative regulation

Note: Eligibility is generally limited to children who reside within district boundaries. However, Education Code 8322 and 5 CCR 18107 authorize the Board to enter into an agreement with the boards of other districts to serve children who reside within those districts. The district may revise the following paragraph to reflect any such agreement approved by the Board.

The Superintendent 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.

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. Pursuant to Education Code 8235, programs operated under the CSPP are part-day programs only. Education Code 8239 encourages the provision of "wraparound child care services" which combine part-day preschool and general

child care services to provide a full day of services for qualifying families; see the accompanying administrative regulation for program requirements.***

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend strategies to link the district's preschool program with other available child care and development programs in the district or community in order to assist families whose child care needs extend beyond the length of time that the district's part-day preschool program is offered.

Note: 5 CCR 18279-18281 require an annual evaluation using the standardized "Desired Results for Children and Families" system developed by the CDE. The system requires a self-evaluation that includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of the program by staff and the Board, a parent survey, and an environment rating scale using forms selected by the CDE. In addition, every three years, the CDE conducts a Federal Program Monitoring/Contract Monitoring Review (FPM/CMR) process with each contract agency which reviews compliance with program requirements. The FPM/CMR instrument is available on the CDE's web site.

Note: Education Code 8203.1, as added by SB 858 (Ch. 32, Statutes of 2014), establishes the early learning quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) block grant to support continuous local improvement efforts that increase the number of low-income children in high-quality preschool programs. Grant funds may be awarded to eligible local consortia, which then allocate funds to districts and other agencies contracting to provide CSPP programs. Pursuant to Education Code 8203.1, QRIS is based on a tiered rating structure with progressively higher quality standards for each tier. It is designed to (1) provide supports and incentives for programs, teachers, and administrators to reach higher levels of quality; (2) monitor and evaluate program impacts on child outcomes; and (3) disseminate information to parents/guardians and the public about program quality. For further information about the QRIS block grant, see the CDE web site and its publication Dream Big for Our Youngest Children.

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

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

(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 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
8300-8303 Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee
8360-8370 Personnel qualifications
8400-8409 Contracts
8493-8498 Facilities
8499.3-8499.7 Local child care and development planning councils
48000 Transitional kindergarten
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
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
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
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
9831-9852 Head Start programs
9858-9858q Child Care and Development Block Grant
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 22
101151-101239.2 General requirements, licensed child care centers, including:
101151-101163 Licensing and application procedures
101212-101231 Continuing requirements
101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45
1301-1310 Head Start

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Expanding Access to High-Quality Preschool Programs, 2008

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Preschool Learning Foundations

14-02 Enrolling and Reporting Children in California State Preschool Programs, April 2014

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

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 Children and Families Commission: <http://www.cafc.ca.gov>

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.f5ac.org>

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

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Preschool California: <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>

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