

STUDENTS

Preschool/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

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

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.

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)

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)

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)

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 ~~Language~~ 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)

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)

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 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 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.

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*
~~6319—Qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals~~
 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*
~~12-08 Disenrollment Due to 2012-13 Budget Reduction for California State Preschool Programs, Management Bulletin, July 2012~~
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.ccfcc.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>

Policy adopted: 11/8/05

Policy revised: 6/23/09; 1/26/16; 12/12/17 pending approval