

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. Such programs should provide developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, adequately supervised, and cognitively rich environment.

(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

Collaboration with Community Programs

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with other 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 community-wide 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)

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

The Superintendent or designee shall establish partnerships with feeder preschools to facilitate articulation of the preschool curriculum with the district's elementary education program.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

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 set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available. In so doing, the Board shall give 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. 0520.4 - Quality Education Investment Schools)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

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.

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

To encourage participation in the district's preschool program and meet the child care needs of parents/guardians, 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.

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

(cf. 5148.1 - Child Care Services for Parenting Students)

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

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

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

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. Program components shall address social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development in key areas that are necessary for kindergarten readiness.

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)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

To maximize the ability of children to succeed in the preschool program, program staff 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. 4112.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)
- (cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
- (cf. 4212.5 - Criminal Record Check)
- (cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)
- (cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
- (cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

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)
- (cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

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
- 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
- 54740-54749 Cal-SAFE program for pregnant/parenting students and their children

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
- 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

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

- (cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
- (cf. 5148.1 - Child Care Services for Parenting Students)
- (cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

Eligibility

Children eligible for the district's preschool program include those who will have their third or fourth birthday on or before October 1 of the 2013-14 fiscal year or September 1 of each fiscal year thereafter. (Education Code 8208, 8235, 8236)

- (cf. 5111 - Admission)
- (cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

Enrollment Priorities

The Superintendent or designee shall refer to the county's centralized eligibility list to identify children in need of services.

First priority for enrollment in a preschool program shall be given to neglected or abused children who are recipients of child protective services or who are at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social service agency. If unable to enroll a child in this category, the district shall refer the child's parent/guardian to local resource and referral services so that services for the child can be located. (Education Code 8236)

- (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
- (cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
- (cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

After all such children are enrolled, the district shall give priority to eligible children age 4 years prior to enrolling eligible children age 3 years. (Education Code 8236)

After enrolling all eligible children who meet the criteria for subsidized services as specified in the section entitled "Fees and Charges" below, up to 10 percent of the program's enrollment, calculated throughout the entire contract, may be filled with children whose family income is no more than 15 percent above the income eligibility threshold. (Education Code 8235)

The district may certify eligibility and enrollment up to 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the beginning of the preschool year. After establishing eligibility at the time of initial enrollment,

a child shall remain eligible for the remainder of the program year. (Education Code 8237)
AR 5148.3 (b)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled in the following order: (Education Code 8236, 8263.3)

1. Children age 3 years whose families have the highest income in relation to family size shall be disenrolled first, followed by children age 4 years whose families have the highest income in relation to family size.

At each age level, if two or more families have the same income ranking, the child with disabilities shall be disenrolled last. If there are no families that have a child with disabilities, the child who has received services the longest shall be disenrolled first.

2. Families of children age 3 or 4 years who are receiving child protective services or who have been documented to be at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, regardless of income, shall be disenrolled last.

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)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6112 - School Day)

Wraparound Child Care Services

In accordance with its contract with the CDE, the district may offer full-day services to meet the needs of eligible families through a combination of part-day preschool and wraparound child care services that are offered for the remaining portion of the day or year following completion of the preschool services. Child care and development services offered through this program shall meet the requirements of general child care and development programs pursuant to Education Code 8240-8244. (Education Code 8239)

Wraparound services shall operate a minimum of 246 days per year unless otherwise specified in the contract. For this period of time, part-day preschool programs shall operate 175-180 days and general child care and development programs may operate a full day for the remainder of the year after the completion of the preschool program. (Education Code 8239)

Family Literacy Services

When any district preschool program receives funding for family literacy services pursuant to Education Code 8238.4, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the provision of:
(Education Code 8238)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

1. Opportunities for parents/guardians to work with their children on interactive literacy activities, including activities in which parents/guardians actively participate in facilitating their children's acquisition of prereading skills through guided activities such as shared reading, learning the alphabet, and basic vocabulary development

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

2. Parenting education for parents/guardians of participating children to support their children's development of literacy skills, including, but not limited to, parent education in:
 - a. Providing support for the educational growth and success of their children
 - b. Improving parent-school communications and parental understanding of school structures and expectations
 - c. Becoming active partners with teachers in the education of their children
3. Referrals to providers of adult education and instruction in English as a second language as necessary to improve parents/guardians' academic skills

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

4. Staff development for teachers in participating classrooms that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Development of a pedagogical knowledge, including, but not limited to, improved instructional strategies
 - b. Knowledge and application of developmentally appropriate assessments of the prereading skills of children in participating classrooms
 - c. Information on working with families, including the use of on-site coaching, for guided practice in interactive literacy activities

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Fees and Charges

Fees for participation shall be assessed and collected in accordance with the fee schedule established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 8239, 8263)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Children shall be eligible for subsidized services as follows:

1. Children shall be eligible for subsidized preschool services if their family is a current aid recipient, income eligible, or homeless and/or the family's children are recipients of protective services or have been identified as being, or at risk of being, abused, neglected, or exploited. (Education Code 8235, 8263, 8263.1)
2. Children shall be eligible for subsidized wraparound services if their family meets at least one of the criteria specified in item #1 above and/or needs child care services because of either of the following circumstances: (Education Code 8239, 8263)
 - a. The child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency or emergency shelter as a recipient of protective services or as being, or at risk of being, neglected, abused, or exploited.
 - b. The parents/guardians are engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofession, or profession; are employed or seeking employment; are seeking permanent housing for family stability; or are incapacitated.

The district shall involve parents/guardians in the decision-making process to determine whether and how much to charge for field trip expenses and whether to require parents/guardians to provide diapers. A child shall not be denied participation in a field trip due to the parent/guardian's inability or refusal to pay the fee, and no adverse action shall be taken against a parent/guardian for that inability or refusal. (Education Code 8263)

approved: March 14, 2013

Pico Rivera, California