

**PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

The Governing Board recognizes the value of high-quality preschool experiences to enhance children's social-emotional development, knowledge, skills and abilities. The Board desires to provide a supervised, and cognitively rich environment designed to facilitate the transition to kindergarten for three- and four-year old children.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with 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.

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

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 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.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the district's preschool program, transitional

**PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

kindergarten program (TK), and elementary education program to provide a developmental continuum that builds upon children's growing skills and knowledge.

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or child care program. (Education Code 8205, 48000)

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 include activities and services that meet the needs of dual language learners for support in the development of their home language and English. (Education Code 8203)

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

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.

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

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.

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 8208, 8210, and 8211 and 5 CCR 18106.

**PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

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 preschool program is offered.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the plan to provide access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten addresses the needs of preschool children and their families as specified in BP 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten. (Education Code 8281.5)

When a district CSPP program is physically closed by local or state public health order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district shall provide distance learning to preschool children when required to do so as a condition of funding or when required by law.

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

The district's 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 8212; 5 CCR 4610, 4611, 4690-4694)

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

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

- 44065 Interchange between certificated and classified positions*
- 44256 Credential types*
- 48000 Transitional kindergarten*
- 48982 Notification, primary language other than English*
- 8200-8209 General provisions for child care and development services*
- 8200-8499.10 Child care and Development Services Act*
- 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 qualification*
- 8400-8409 Contracts, administrative appeal procedure*
- 8493-8498 Facilities, capital outlay*
- 8499.3-8499.7 Local child care and development planning councils*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

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

**PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

18000-18434 Child care and development programs

18130-18136 California State Preschool Program

18295 Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

4690-4694 Complaints regarding health and safety issues in license-exempt preschool programs

80105-80125 Commission on Teacher Credentialing, child care and development permits

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

9831-9852a Head Start programs

9857-9858r Child Care and Development Block Grant

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101151-101239.2 General requirements, licensed child care centers

101212-101231 Continuing requirements

101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

1301.1-1305.2 Head Start

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

CDE PUBLICATIONS

*Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000*

*First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999*

*Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy and Learning, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2009*

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

*California Preschool Learning Foundations*

CDE MANAGEMENT BULLETINS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

*Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002*

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

WEB SITES

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

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

California Preschool Instructional Network <https://cpin.us/>

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

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

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

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

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

First 5 California: <http://www.f5ac.org>

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

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