

Policy 5148.3: Preschool/Early Childhood Education

Status: DRAFT

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

The Superintendent 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.

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 17701-17711 and the accompanying administrative regulation. (5 CCR 17701)

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 kindergarten program (TK), and elementary education program to provide a developmental continuum that builds upon children's growing skills and knowledge. In order to provide families with the option of a full-day, high-quality instructional program, the district may enroll children who are in a TK or kindergarten program in a California State Preschool Program (CSPP) before and/or after the regular school day.

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 Board Policy 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten. (Education Code 8281.5)

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 Superintendent or designee shall identify dual language learners in district preschool programs, and shall collect and report related data to CDE as required by Education Code 8241.5. 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 serve children with exceptional needs as required by Education Code 8208. Children with exceptional needs attending any CSPP shall be educated in the least restrictive environment in accordance with 20 USC 1412.

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.

Staffing

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.

Eligibility, Enrollment, and Disenrollment

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. (5 CCR 17743; 22 CCR 101218.1)

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 17746-17748.

To receive preschool services, a child and the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be required to provide evidence of residency in California, which may be established by providing evidence of a California street or post office address. However, any person identified as experiencing homelessness shall only be required to submit a declaration that the

person resides in California. (5 CCR 17745)

Preschool eligibility determinations shall be made without regard to a child's immigration status or that of the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) unless the child or the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) are under a final order of deportation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (5 CCR 17745)

The district's program shall not expel or unenroll a child or persuade or encourage a child's parents/guardians to voluntarily unenroll from the program based on the child's behavior, unless the expulsion or unenrollment is in accordance with the procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Response to Immigration Enforcement

CSPPs shall provide families with the Attorney General's Immigration webpage during enrollment so families can access the Attorney General's model policies in, "Promoting Safe Early Childhood Education for All: Guidance and Model Policies for Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers Pursuant to the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025."

The district and district staff shall act in accordance with Health and Safety Code 1597.640 and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1445 - Response to Immigration Enforcement with respect to:

1. Soliciting or collecting information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's family members
2. Nondiscrimination on the basis of immigration status
3. Responding to the presence of immigration enforcement activity on district property, including requests for access to children or access to district-provided transportation, nonpublic areas of district property or facilities, or nonpublic area in which a district-sponsored activity is occurring

The district's legal counsel or other district official designated by the Superintendent is encouraged to submit a timely report regarding the officer or employee's requests to the California Attorney General and CDE.

4. Responding to a request for information regarding a child or a child's family or household from immigration authorities

If the district's CSPP responds to a request for information regarding the child, the district shall make a copy of the documents requested and shall document the name of the person/agency to whom the documents were provided. The CSPP shall keep a record of the documents produced and place the copy in the child's file.

5. Responding in the event a child's parent/guardian is detained or deported
6. Permitting families to update children's emergency contact information as needed throughout the year

Families may provide as many alternative contacts as they wish if no parent/guardian is available.

7. Accessing, reviewing, or obtaining employee records by immigration authorities, except as to I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification forms and other documents for which a Notice of Inspection has been provided to the employer

CSPPs shall review the Attorney General's website by June 1 of each calendar year. If there are updated model policies related to protecting the rights of immigrants and CSPP families to safely access CSPP facilities, the district shall adopt the updated policies or equivalent policies by July 1 of that calendar year.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an annual plan of evaluation which conforms to state requirements. (5 CCR 17709-17711)

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.

Complaints

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 CSPP. 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, 17781)

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
22 CCR 101151-101191	Licensing and application procedures
22 CCR 101151-101239.2	General requirements; licensed child care centers
22 CCR 101212-101231	Continuing requirements
22 CCR 101237-101239.2	Facilities and equipment
5 CCR 14001-14036	School housing
5 CCR 17700-17833	California State Preschool Program
5 CCR 17701-17711	General program requirements
5 CCR 17745	Admission requirements; residency
5 CCR 17746-17748	Enrollment priorities
5 CCR 18295	Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
5 CCR 4690-4694	Complaints regarding health and safety issues in license-exempt preschool programs
5 CCR 80067-80067.3	Prekindergarten-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential
5 CCR 80105-80125	Commission on Teacher Credentialing; child care and development permits
Ed. Code 17375	California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program
Ed. Code 44065	Issuance of and functions requiring credentials
Ed. Code 44256	Authorization for teaching credentials
Ed. Code 48000-48003	Kindergartens
Ed. Code 48985	Notices to parents/guardians in language other than English
Ed. Code 60910	Data for students enrolled in California State Preschool Program
Ed. Code 69617	Golden State Teacher Grant Program
Ed. Code 8200-8340	California State Preschool Program
Ed. Code 8489-8489.1	Expulsion and suspension procedures
H&S Code 120325-120380	Immunization against communicable diseases
H&S Code 1596.70-1596.895	California Child Day Care Act
H&S Code 1596.90-1597.21	Day care centers
H&S Code 1597.640	Family preparedness in licensed child care and development program facilities; response to immigration enforcement

State

W&I Code 10207-10215
W&I Code 10207-10492.2
W&I Code 10217-10224.5
W&I Code 10225-10234
W&I Code 10235-10238
W&I Code 10240-10243
W&I Code 10250-10252
W&I Code 10260-10263
W&I Code 10480-10487

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[General provisions](#)
[Child Care and Development Services Act](#)
[Resource and referral programs](#)
[Alternative payment programs](#)
[Migrant child care and development programs](#)
[General child care and development programs](#)
[Family child care home education networks](#)
[Child care and development services for children with special needs](#)
[Local planning councils](#)

Federal

20 USC 1400-1482
20 USC 6311-6322
20 USC 6391-6399
42 USC 9831-9852c
42 USC 9857-9858r
45 CFR 1301.1-1305.2

Description

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
Title I, relative to preschool
Education of migratory children
Head Start programs
Child Care and Development Block Grant
Head Start

Management Resources

CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing
Publication

CA Office of the Attorney General Publication

California Department of Education Publication

California Department of Education Publication

California Department of Education Publication

California Department of Education Publication

California Department of Education Publication

California Department of Education Publication

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California Department of Education Publication

California Department of Education Publication

Description

[Approval of Regulations Authorizing the New PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential, Coded Correspondence 24-03, March 2024](#)
[Promoting Safe Early Childhood Education for All: Guidance and Model Policies for Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers Pursuant to the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025, April 2026](#)
[UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup Legislative Report](#)
[Assessment and Reporting of Family Fees for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2024-25, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-06, June 2024](#)
[California State Preschool Program Neighborhood School Eligibility Criteria to Enroll Three- and Four-Year-Old Children, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-01, January 2024](#)
[Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-07, August 2024](#)
[Data Collection for California State Preschool Programs Operated by a Local Educational Agency, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-08, August 2024](#)
[Early Childhood Division Federal Program Monitoring Instrument](#)
[California State Preschool Program and Children with Disabilities \(Exceptional Needs\), Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-02, February 2023](#)
[Part-day California State Preschool Program as an Extended Learning and Care Option, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-05, April 2023](#)
[Suspension and Expulsion in the California State Preschool Program, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-08, September 2023](#)
[Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009](#)

Management Resources**Description**

California Department of Education Publication	Implementation of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and CLASS Environment and Removal of the Environment Rating Scale for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-10, December 2023
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Learning Foundations
California Department of Education Publication	First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999
CSBA Publication	The Importance of Early Childhood Education Programs, September 2019
CSBA Publication	The Preschool Landscape in California and Strategies for Expansion, January 2020
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2016
Website	Universal PreKindergarten, California's Great Start
Website	California Office of Administrative Law
Website	California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
Website	National Institute for Early Education Research
Website	California Association for the Education of Young Children
Website	California Head Start Association
Website	California Preschool Instructional Network
Website	Child Development Policy Institute
Website	First 5 California
Website	California Department of Social Services
Website	Cities Counties and Schools Partnership
Website	California Office of the Attorney General
Website	CSBA
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Website	U.S. Department of Education

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1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
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1312.3-E PDF(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
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1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330-E PDF(1)	Use Of School Facilities
1330.1	Joint Use Agreements

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1445	Response To Immigration Enforcement
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5030	Student Wellness
5111	Admission

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