

Policy 5148.3: Preschool/Early Childhood Education

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2012 | Last Revised Date: 12/15/2020 | Last Reviewed Date: 12/15/2020

CSBA 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. CSBA's publication What Boards of Education Can Do about Kindergarten Readiness 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.

The Governing Board recognizes the value of high-quality preschool experiences to enhance children's social-emotional development, knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes necessary for a successful transition into the elementary education program. The Board desires to provide children ages 3-4 years access to developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, adequately supervised, and cognitively rich environment.

CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraphs may be used by all districts, regardless of whether they provide their own preschool programs, and may be revised to reflect district practice.

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 may also develop centralized student eligibility lists; see section on "Enrollment Priority" in the accompanying administrative regulation.

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

CSBA 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.

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 8235-8239.1. 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.

Preschool programs may also receive funding through the state migrant child care and development program (Education Code 8230-8233), child care and development services for children with special needs program (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, either directly or through a subcontract with a public or private provider.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.792, CSPP programs that are operated in a school building by a school district under contract with CDE are exempted from licensure and regulation requirements of Health and Safety Code 1596.70-1597.21. However, such CSPP programs are required to comply with other specified health and safety requirements, including the Field Act, California Building Standards Code, requirements for kindergarten classrooms specified in 5 CCR 14001-14306, and requirements for CSPP programs specified in 5 CCR 18000-18308.

District preschool programs shall comply with all health and safety laws and regulations, including, when applicable, licensure requirements pursuant to 22 CCR 101156.

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CSBA 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.

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.

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

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.

CSBA NOTE: 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 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 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 in the program and shall communicate frequently with parents/guardians of enrolled children regarding their child's progress.

CSBA 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 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.

Health and Safety Code 1596.7995 requires that employees and volunteers at a day care center be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles, with specified exemptions. In addition, Health and Safety Code 1597.055 requires that teachers in a day care center obtain a tuberculosis clearance. See the accompanying administrative regulation.

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. Professional development resources pertaining to preschool/early childhood education are available through CDE and organizations such as the California Preschool Instructional Network.

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.

CSBA 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)

CSBA 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.

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.

CSBA 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.

CSBA NOTE: 5 CCR 18279-18281 require an annual evaluation using CDE's standardized "Desired Results for Children and Families" system. 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 CDE. In addition, every three years, 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 CDE's web site.

Education Code 8203.1 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 CDE's 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)

CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph is for use by districts that offer a CSPP program and may be revised to reflect the type(s) of programs offered by the district. Education Code 8235.5 requires districts to use the uniform complaint procedures, with modifications as necessary, to investigate and resolve health and safety complaints in

license-exempt CSPP programs. 5 CCR 4610 requires that such complaints be addressed through the procedures described in 5 CCR 4690-4694, as added by Register 2020, No. 21. See BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

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 8235.5; 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.

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 board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

Description

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 18000-18434	Child care and development programs
5 CCR 18130-18136	California State Preschool Program
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 80105-80125	Commission on Teacher Credentialing, child care and development permits
Ed. Code 44065	Interchange between certificated and classified positions
Ed. Code 44256	Credential types
Ed. Code 48000	Transitional kindergarten
Ed. Code 48985	Notification, primary language other than English
Ed. Code 8200-8209	General provisions for child care and development services
Ed. Code 8200-8499.10	Child Care and Development Services Act
Ed. Code 8230-8233	Migrant child care and development program
Ed. Code 8235-8239.1	California State Preschool Program
Ed. Code 8240-8244	General child care and development programs
Ed. Code 8250-8252	Programs for children with special needs
Ed. Code 8263	Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services
Ed. Code 8263.3	Disenrollment of families due to reduced funding levels
Ed. Code 8264.8	Center-based child care programs, staffing ratios
Ed. Code 8273.1	Family fees
Ed. Code 8360-8370	Personnel qualifications
Ed. Code 8400-8409	Contracts, administrative appeal procedure
Ed. Code 8493-8498	Facilities, capital outlay
Ed. Code 8499.3-8499.7	Local child care and development planning councils
H&S Code 120325-120380	Immunization requirements
H&S Code 1596.70-1596.895	California Child Day Care Act

H&S Code 1596.90-1597.21

[Day care centers](#)

Federal References

20 USC 1400-1482

20 USC 6311-6322

20 USC 6371-6376

20 USC 6381-6381k

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](#)

[Early Reading First](#)

[Even Start Family Literacy Program](#)

[Education of migratory children](#)

[Head Start programs](#)

[Child Care and Development Block Grant](#)

[Head Start](#)

Management Resources References

California Department of Education Publication

CSBA Publication

U.S. Department of Education Publication

U.S. Department of Education Publication

Website

Description

[California Preschool Learning Foundations](#)

[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](#)

[What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016](#)

[Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2016](#)

[Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002](#)

[California Preschool Instructional Network](#)

[Child Development Policy Institute](#)

[National Institute for Early Education Research](#)

[California Association for the Education of Young Children](#)

[California Head Start Association](#)

[First 5 California](#)

[California County Superintendents Educational Services Association](#)

[Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[CSBA](#)

[California Department of Education](#)

Cross References

1312.3

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5148	Child Care And Development
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