

Policy 5148.3: Preschool/Early Childhood Education

Status: ADOPTED

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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 the local child care and development planning council, the county office of education, other public agencies, organizations, /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. 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, either directly or through a subcontract with 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.

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Preschool classroom needs shall be addressed in the district's plan, facilities master 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. 1330.1 Joint Use Agreement)

(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 the district's preschool program, transitional kindergarten program (TK) and elementary program to provide a developmental continuum that builds upon children's growing skill 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) (cf. 6001 – Academic Standards)
(cf. 6170.1 – Transitional Kindergarten)

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.

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

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 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 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.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

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 8208, 8210, and 8211 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 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)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

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)

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	Description
22 CCR 101151-101163	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 18000-18434	Child care and development programs
5 CCR 18130-18136	California State Preschool Program
5 CCR 18272-18281	General Program Requirements
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 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	Transitional kindergarten
Ed. Code 48985	Notices to parents in language other than English
Ed. Code 8200-8340	California State Preschool Program
Ed. Code 8203.5	Contracts to provide child care and development services
Ed. Code 8205	Definitions
Ed. Code 8207	California State Preschool Program administration
Ed. Code 8208	Eligibility of three- or four-year-old child for state preschool program
Ed. Code 8209	Physical examination and immunizations
Ed. Code 8210	Priority for part-day programs
Ed. Code 8211	Priority for full-day programs
Ed. Code 8212	Complaints related to preschool health and safety issues
Ed. Code 8213	Income eligibility
Ed. Code 8214	Order of disenrollment
Ed. Code 8217	Enrollment of four-year-old children in state preschool programs
Ed. Code 8220-8221	Family literacy services
Ed. Code 8241	Staffing ratios for center-based program
Ed. Code 8252-8254	Family fees
Ed. Code 8281.5	California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant Program
Ed. Code 8298	Program director qualifications
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
W&I Code 10207-10215	General provisions
W&I Code 10207-10490	Child Care and Development Services Act
W&I Code 10217-10224.5	Resource and referral programs
W&I Code 10225-10234	Alternative payment programs
W&I Code 10235-10238	Migrant child care and development programs
W&I Code 10240-10243	General child care and development programs
W&I Code 10250-10252	Family child care home education networks

W&I Code 10260-10263	Child care and development services for children with special needs
W&I Code 10480-10487	Local planning councils
Federal	Description
20 USC 1400-1482	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
20 USC 6311-6322	Title I, relative to preschool
20 USC 6371-6376	Early Reading First
20 USC 6381-6381k	Even Start Family Literacy Program
20 USC 6391-6399	Education of migratory children
42 USC 9831-9852c	Head Start programs
42 USC 9857-9858r	Child Care and Development Block Grant
45 CFR 1301.1-1305.2	Head Start
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education Publication	Management Bulletin 21-11, Reopening, Reimbursement, Distance Learning Plans, and Distance Learning Requirements for California State Preschool Program Contractors, September 17, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	Management Bulletin 21-12, Guidance on Family Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22, September 17, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	Management Bulletin 21-13, Guidance on Implementation of the California State Preschool Program Quality Requirements During the COVID-19 Pandemic, September 29, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Learning Foundations
California Department of Education Publication	Dream Big for Our Youngest Children: Final Report of the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee, 2010
California Department of Education Publication	Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000
California Department of Education Publication	Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009
CSBA Publication	What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2016
Website	National Institute for Early Education Research

Website	California Head Start Association
Website	California Preschool Instructional Network
Website	Child Development Policy Institute
Website	California Association for the Education of Young Children
Website	First 5 California
Website	California Department of Social Services
Website	California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
Website	Cities Counties and Schools Partnership
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
0415	Equity
0500	Accountability
1240	Volunteer Assistance
1240	Volunteer Assistance
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330.1	Joint Use Agreements
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
1700	Relations Between Private Industry And The Schools
3260	Fees And Charges
3260	Fees And Charges
3280	Sale Or Lease Of District-Owned Real Property
3280	Sale Or Lease Of District-Owned Real Property
3541	Transportation Routes And Services

3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3580	District Records
3580	District Records
4112	Appointment And Conditions Of Employment
4112.4	Health Examinations
4112.5	Criminal Record Check
4131	Staff Development
4212.4	Health Examinations
4212.5	Criminal Record Check
4231	Staff Development
4312.4	Health Examinations
4312.5	Criminal Record Check
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5030	Student Wellness
5030	Student Wellness
5111	Admission
5111	Admission
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5141.23	Asthma Management
5141.23	Asthma Management
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.32	Health Screening For School Entry
5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.6	Parental Notifications
5145.6-E PDF(1)	Parental Notifications
6011	Academic Standards

6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6164.4	Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education
6164.4	Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education
6170.1	Transitional Kindergarten
6171	Title I Programs
6171	Title I Programs
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E PDF(1)	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E PDF(2)	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6174	Education For English Learners
6175	Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program
7110	Facilities Master Plan
7210	Facilities Financing