PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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.
To receive preschool services, a child and the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be required to provide evidence of residency in California. 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)

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.

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

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.

If an early enrollment child is enrolled in the district's TK program, the district shall concurrently offer the child enrollment in the district's CSPP program, subject to available space. (Education Code 48000.15)

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 program 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.

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/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

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.

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)

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

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)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	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 17746-17748	Enrollment priorities
5 CCR 18295	Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

5 CCR 4690-4694	Complaints regarding health and safety issues in license-exempt preschool programs
5 CCR 80067	Professional Clear 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 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
W&I Code 10207-10215	General provisions
W&I Code 10207-10492.2	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 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**
CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing Publication	Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to the PK-3 Childhood Education Specialist Credential, Coded Correspondence 23-02, February 10, 2023
California Department of Education Publication	California State Preschool Program and Children with Disabilities (Exceptional Needs), Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-02, February 2023

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

California Department of Education Publication	Part-day California State Preschool Program as an Extended Learning and Care Option, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-05, April 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Assessment and Reporting of Family Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023–24, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-07, September 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Suspension and Expulsion in the California State Preschool Program, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-08, September 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009
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	California Department of Education, 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 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	Cities Counties and Schools Partnership
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	**Description**
0415	Equity
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
0500	Accountability

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

1240	Volunteer Assistance
1240	Volunteer Assistance
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	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
3523	Electronic Signatures
3523	Electronic Signatures
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
4112.2	Certification
4112.2	Certification
4112.4	Health Examinations
4112.5	Criminal Record Check
4112.5-E(1)	Criminal Record Check
4112.6	Personnel Files
4131	Staff Development
4212.4	Health Examinations
4212.5	Criminal Record Check
4212.5-E(1)	Criminal Record Check
4212.6	Personnel Files
4222	Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals
4222	Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals
4231	Staff Development
4312.4	Health Examinations
4312.5	Criminal Record Check
4312.5-E(1)	Criminal Record Check
4312.6	Personnel Files
4331	Staff Development
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5030	Student Wellness
5111	Admission
5125	Student Records
5141.23	Asthma Management
5141.23	Asthma Management
5141.26	Tuberculosis Testing
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.32	Health Screening For School Entry
5141.6	School Health Services
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148	Child Care And Development
6011	Academic Standards
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6159	Individualized Education Program
6164.4	Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education
6170.1	Transitional Kindergarten
6171	Title I Programs
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(1)	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(2)	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6174	Education For English Learners
6175	Migrant Education Program
6200	Adult Education
7110	Facilities Master Plan
7210	Facilities Financing

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Children with exceptional needs means either of the following: (Education Code 8205)

1. Children under three years of age who have been determined to be eligible for early intervention services pursuant to the California Early Intervention Services Act (Government Code 95000-95029.5) and its implementing regulations, including an infant or toddler with a developmental delay or established risk condition, or a child who is at high risk of having a substantial developmental disability, as defined in Government Code 95014. Children with exceptional needs under the age of three shall have active individualized family service plans (IFSP) and shall be receiving early intervention services.

2. Children 3 to 21 years of age, inclusive, who have been determined to be eligible for special education and related services by an individualized education program (IEP) team according to the special education requirements contained in Education Code 56000-56865, and who meet eligibility criteria described in Education Code 56026 and 56333-56338 and 5 CCR 3030-3031. Children with exceptional needs between ages 3 to 21 shall have an active IEP and shall be receiving early intervention services or appropriate special education.

Dual language learner children means children whose first language is a language other than English or children who are developing two or more languages, one of which may be English. (Education Code 8205)

Early enrollment child means a child whose fourth birthday will be between June 3 and September 1 preceding the school year during which they are enrolled in a transitional kindergarten (TK) classroom. (Education Code 48000.15)

Three-year-old children means children who will have their third birthday on or before December 1 of the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a program approved by the California Department of Education (CDE) under the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). Children who have their third birthday on or after December 2 of the fiscal year, may be enrolled in a CSPP program on or after their third birthday. (Education Code 8205)

Four-year-old children means children who will have their fourth birthday on or before December 1 of the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a CSPP program, or a child whose fifth birthday occurs after September 1 of the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a CSPP program and whose parent or guardian has opted to retain or enroll them in a CSPP program. (Education Code 8205)

When approved by CDE under the CSPP, the district may operate one or more part- or full-day preschool programs in accordance with law and the terms of its contract with CDE.

The district's CSPP program shall include all of the following: (Education Code 8207)

1. Age and developmentally appropriate activities for children

2. Supervision

3. Parenting education and parent engagement

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

4. Social services that include, but are not limited to, identification of child and family needs and referral to appropriate agencies

5. Health services

6. Nutrition

7. Training and career ladder opportunities, documentation of which shall be provided to CDE

8. Physical activity to support children's health

9. The district's preschool program shall satisfy all the requirements described in 5 CCR 17701-17711, including, but not limited to, those related to the program philosophy, goals, and objectives, the educational program, the creation of a developmental profile for each child, staff development, family engagement and strengthening, community involvement, health and social services, nutrition, and program evaluation.

Minimum Hours/Days of Operation

The district's part-day preschool program shall operate a minimum of three hours, and up to three hours and 59 minutes, per day, excluding time for home-to-school transportation, and for at least 175 days per year unless otherwise specified in the contract with CDE. (Education Code 8207; 5 CCR 17727)

However, a part-day preschool program may also offer TK or kindergarten children whose families meet the requirements of Education Code 8208 less than four hours of wraparound childcare services and a part-day preschool program operating on a school site may be allowed flexibility in the operational hours. (Education Code 48000)

The district may enroll an early enrollment child in TK whose fourth birthday is between June 3 and September 1, inclusive, preceding the school year during which they are enrolled in TK. If an early enrollment child is enrolled in the district's TK program, the district shall concurrently offer the child enrollment in the district's CSPP, subject to available space. (Education Code 48000.15)

The district's full-day program shall operate for a minimum of 246 days per year, unless the contract specifies a lower number of days of operation, and for the number of operational hours reasonably necessary to meet the preschool needs of the families in the community. (Education Code 8207; 5 CCR 17728)

Staffing

The preschool program shall maintain an adult-child ratio of at least one adult for every eight children and a teacher-child ratio of at least one teacher for every 24 children. (Education Code 8241, 5 CCR 17713-17716)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Any person employed at a district preschool and any volunteer who provides care and supervision to children at a preschool shall, unless exempted by law, be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles in accordance with Health and Safety Code 1596.7995 and Administrative Regulation 5148 - Child Care and Development. Documentation of required immunizations, or applicable exemptions, shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file. (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

In addition, preschool teachers shall present evidence of a current tuberculosis clearance and meet other requirements as specified in Health and Safety Code 1597.055.

The district may require any volunteer who is to provide care and supervision to district preschool children to provide evidence that the volunteer is free of infectious tuberculosis.

Family Literacy Services

When any district part-day preschool program receives funding for family literacy services pursuant to Education Code 8221, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the provision of: (Education Code 8220)

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

2. Parenting education for parents/guardians of children in participating classrooms to support their child'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

    d. Improving parental knowledge of local resources for the identification of and services for developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, contact information for the district special education referral

3. Referrals to providers of adult education and instruction in English as a second language as necessary to improve academic skills of parents/guardians

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

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 and behavioral 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

    d. Providing targeted interventions for all young children to improve kindergarten readiness upon program completion

Eligibility Criteria for Part-Day CSPP Programs

A three- or four-year-old child is eligible for a part-day CSPP program if the child's family is one of the following: (Education Code 8208)

1. A current aid recipient

2. Income eligible

3. Experiencing homelessness

4. One whose children are recipients of child protective services, or whose children have been identified as being abused, neglected, or exploited, or at risk of being abused, neglected or exploited

5. One who has children with exceptional needs, as defined in Education Code 8205

6. One with a household member who is certified to receive benefits from Medi-Cal, CalFresh, the California Food Assistance Program, the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Head Start, Early Head Start, or any other designated means-tested government program, as determined by CDE

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

After all eligible three- and four-year-old children have been enrolled as provided above, a part-day CSPP program may provide services to children in families whose income is no more than 15 percent above the income eligibility threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. No more than 10 percent of all the children enrolled in the CSPP program shall be from families above the income eligibility threshold. (Education Code 8208)

In addition, after all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled as provided in the paragraphs above, a part-day CSPP program may provide services to three- and four-year-old children in families whose income is above the income eligibility threshold if those children are children with exceptional needs. Such children with exceptional needs shall not count towards the 10-percent limit on enrollment of families with income above the income eligibility threshold described above. (Education Code 8208)

A CSPP program operating within the attendance boundary of a school where at least 80 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch may enroll three- and four-year-old children after all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled as provided in the paragraphs above. (Education Code 8208, 8217)

The district shall certify eligibility and enroll families into the part-day preschool program within 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the beginning of the new preschool year. Subsequent to a child's enrollment, the child shall be deemed eligible for the part-day CSPP program for the remainder of the program year and for the following program year, provided applicable age-eligibility requirements are met, as specified in Education Code 8205 and 48000. (Education Code 8208)

Enrollment Priorities for Part-Day CSPP Programs

The district shall give priority for part-day CSPP programs as follows: (Education Code 8210)

1. The first priority for services shall be given to three- or four-year-old children who are recipients of child protective services or who are at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited and for whom there is a written referral from a legal, medical, or social service agency. If the district is unable to enroll a child in this first priority category, the district shall refer the child's parent/guardian to local resources and referral services so that services for the child can be located.

2. When the number of three- or four-year old children with exceptional needs required to be enrolled pursuant to Education Code 8208 have been enrolled and there are additional children with exceptional needs who are interested in enrolling, the second priority for services shall be given to all three- and four-year old children with exceptional needs from families with incomes below the income eligibility threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. Within this priority category, children with exceptional needs from families with the lowest income according to the income ranking on the most recent schedule of income ceiling eligibility table, as published by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) at the time of enrollment, shall be enrolled first. If two or more families have the same income ranking, the child that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first.

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

3. The third priority shall be given to eligible four-year-old children who are not enrolled in a state-funded TK program. This priority shall not include children eligible for enrollment as children with exceptional needs pursuant to Education Code 8208(a)(1)(E), who are from families with incomes above the income eligibility threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. Within this priority category, eligible children with the lowest income according to the income ranking on the most recent schedule of income ceiling eligibility table, as published by the SPI at the time of enrollment, shall be enrolled first.

4. If two or more families have the same income ranking according to the most recent schedule of income ceiling eligibility table, a child who is identified as a dual language learner shall be enrolled first. If there are no children identified as dual language learners, the child that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first.

5. The fourth priority shall be given to eligible three-year-old children. This priority shall not include children eligible for enrollment as children with exceptional needs pursuant to Education Code 8208(a)(1)(E), who are from families with incomes above the income eligibility threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. Enrollment determinations within this priority category shall be made in the same way as for third priority in Item #3 above.

6. The fifth priority, after all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled, shall be given to children from families whose income is no more than 15 percent above the eligibility income threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. Within this priority category, priority shall be given to three- and four-year-old children with exceptional needs interested in enrolling beyond those already enrolled in the 10 percent of funded enrollment set aside pursuant to Education Code 8208, then to four-year old children before three-year-old children without exceptional needs.

7. After all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled in the first through fifth priority categories, as described in Items #1-5 above, the district may enroll other children in the following order:

    a. A CSPP program site operating within the attendance boundary of a school where at least 80 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals as described in Education Code 8217 may enroll any three- or four-year-old children whose families reside within the attendance boundary of the qualified elementary school. These children shall, to the extent possible, be enrolled by lowest to highest income according to the most recent schedule of income ceiling eligibility table.

    b. Children enrolling in a CSPP program that provides expanded learning and care to TK or kindergarten students, pursuant to Education Code 48000

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Regardless of the priorities listed above, until the district attains the percent of funded enrollment set aside for children with exceptional needs pursuant to Education Code 8208, children with exceptional needs shall be enrolled without regard to the priorities listed above. Within this category, eligible children with the lowest income according to the income ranking on the most recent schedule of income ceiling eligibility table, as published by the SPI at the time of enrollment, shall be enrolled first. If two or more families have the same income ranking, the child that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first. (Education Code 8210)

Eligibility and Enrollment Priorities for Full-Day CSPP Programs

A three- or four-year-old child is eligible for a full-day CSPP program if the family meets both of the following requirements: (Education Code 8208)

1. The child's family is one of the following:

    a. A current aid recipient, income eligible, or experiencing homelessness

    b. One whose children are recipients of child protective services, or whose children have been identified as being abused, neglected, or exploited, or at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited

    c. One who has children with exceptional needs, as defined in Education Code 8205

    d. One with a household member who is certified to receive benefits from Medi-Cal, CalFresh, the California Food Assistance Program, the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Head Start, Early Head Start, or any other designated means-tested government program, as determined by CDE

2. The child's family needs the childcare services because of either the following:

    a. The child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency, the district liaison for homeless students, a Head Start program, or an emergency or transitional shelter as being a recipient of protective services; as being or at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited; or as experiencing homelessness

    b. The parents/guardians are participating in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofession, or profession; are engaged in an educational program for English language learners or to attain a high school diploma or general educational development certificate; are employed or seeking employment; are seeking permanent housing for family stability; or are incapacitated

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

After all eligible three- and four-year-old children have been enrolled as provided above, a full-day CSPP program may provide services to children in families whose income is no more than 15 percent above the income eligibility threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. No more than 10 percent of all the children enrolled in the CSPP program shall be from families above the income eligibility threshold. (Education Code 8208)

After all families meeting the criteria specified in the paragraphs above have been enrolled, a full-day CSPP program may provide services to three- and four-year-old children in families who do not meet at least one of the criteria in Item #2 above. (Education Code 8208)

After all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled as provided above, a CSPP program operating within the attendance boundary of a school where at least 80 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals as described in Education Code 8217 may enroll any four-year-old child. (Education Code 8208)

For full-day CSPP programs, the district shall use the same priority ranking specified in Items #1-4 of "Enrollment Priorities for Part-Day CSPP Programs" above, and the following: (Education Code 8211)

1. After all otherwise eligible children based on Items #1-4 of "Enrollment Priorities for Part-Day CSPP Programs" have been enrolled, fifth priority shall be given to children from families whose income is no more than 15 percent above the eligibility income threshold, as described in Education Code 8213. Within this priority category, priority shall be given to three- and four-year-old children with an IFSP or IEP, then to four-year old children before three-year-old children without IFSP or IEP.

2. After all otherwise eligible children based on Items #1-4 of "Enrollment Priorities for Part-Day CSPP Programs" and Item #1 above have been enrolled, the district may enroll other children in the following order:

    a. Three- and four-year old children from families who do not meet at least one of the need requirements in Item #2 above. Within this priority, families shall be enrolled in income ranking order, lowest to highest, and within income ranking order, four-year old children before three-year old children

    b. When a CSPP program site operates within the attendance boundary of a school where at least 80 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals as described in Education Code 8217, three- or four-year-old children whose families reside within the attendance boundary of the school may be enrolled without establishing eligibility or a need for services. Such children shall, to the extent possible, be enrolled by lowest to highest income ranking order.

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Regardless of the priorities listed above, until the district attains the percent of funded enrollment set aside for children with exceptional needs pursuant to Education Code 8208, children with exceptional needs shall be enrolled without regard to the priorities listed above. Within this category, eligible children with the lowest income according to the income ranking on the most recent schedule of income ceiling eligibility table, as published by the SPI at the time of enrollment, shall be enrolled first. If two or more families have the same income ranking, the child that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first. (Education Code 8211)

Upon establishing initial eligibility or ongoing eligibility for a full-day CSPP program, a family shall be considered to meet all eligibility and need requirements for those services for not less than 24 months. Such families shall receive those services for not less than 24 months before having eligibility or need recertified, and shall not be required to report changes to income or other changes for at least 24 months. If the eligibility period ends before the end of a program year, eligibility shall be extended until the end of the program year, provided age-eligibility requirements are met, as specified in Education Code 8205. However, a family that establishes initial eligibility or ongoing eligibility on the basis of income shall report increases in income that exceed the threshold for ongoing income eligibility, as described in Education Code 8213, and the family's ongoing eligibility for services shall at that time be recertified. In addition, a family may, at any time, voluntarily report income or other changes. This information shall be used, as applicable, to reduce the family's fees, increase the family's services, or extend the period of the family's eligibility before recertification. (Education Code 8208)

Waiting List

The Superintendent or designee shall consult the county's centralized eligibility list, when available, or shall maintain a district waiting list in accordance with applicable enrollment priorities. As vacancies occur, applicant families shall be contacted in order of priority on the waiting list. (5 CCR 17744)

Combined Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Classroom

When a child is eligible for both the preschool program and the district's TK program, the district may place the child in a classroom which is commingled with children from both programs as long as the commingled program meets all of the requirements of each program as well as the following requirements: (Education Code 8207, 48000)

1. An early childhood environment rating scale, as specified in 5 CCR 18281, shall be completed for the classroom

2. All children enrolled for 10 or more hours per week shall be evaluated using the Desired Results Developmental Profile, as specified in 5 CCR 18272

3. The classroom shall be taught by a teacher who holds a credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in accordance with Education Code 44065 and 44256

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

4. The classroom shall comply with the adult-child ratio specified in Education Code 8241

5. Contractors of the district shall report the services, revenues, and expenditures for children in the CSPP in accordance with 5 CCR 18068

6. The classroom shall not include children enrolled in TK for a second year or children enrolled in a regular kindergarten classroom

Fees and Charges

Fees for participation in the district's full-day CSPP program shall be assessed and collected in accordance with the fee schedule established by the SPI in conjunction with the California Department of Social Services. (Education Code 8252)

Family fees accrued but uncollected prior to October 1, 2023, may be forgiven and not collected. (Education Code 8252)

In addition, no fee shall be charged to an eligible family whose child is enrolled in a part-day preschool program or a family that is receiving CalWORKs cash aid. (Education Code 8253; 5 CCR 17735)

A family may be exempt from the fees for up to 12 months for any child enrolled in full-day preschool on the basis of being the recipient of child protective services or as being, or at risk of being, abused, exploited, or neglected. (Education Code 8253; 5 CCR 17735)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process that involves parents/guardians in determining whether to require parents/guardians to provide diapers and/or whether and how much to charge parents/guardians for field trip expenses, within the limit specified in law. 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 8254)

Disenrollment Based on Reduced Funding

When necessary to disenroll families from subsidized preschool services, families shall be disenrolled in reverse order of the priority for services specified in Education Code 8210 and 8211 and as described above in the sections "Enrollment Priorities for Part-Day CSPP Programs" and "Eligibility and Enrollment Priorities for Full-Day CSPP Programs." (Education Code 8214; 5 CCR 17744)

Expulsion/Unenrollment and Suspension Based on Behavior

Suspension means any removal of a child from all or part of the program day, or the prevention of a child from attending the program for one or more days, in response to the child's behavior.

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Removing the child from the program means moving a child to an isolated or separate room. Programs may remove children from specific situations to allow the child to calm down or regain composure, such as taking the child for a walk or accompanying the child to an outdoor environment. However, the child must return to the classroom as soon as the child has calmed down and may not be removed for longer than 30 minutes.

Expulsion means the permanent dismissal of a child from a program in response to a child's behavior.

Persistent and serious behaviors means either repeated patterns of behavior that significantly interfere with the learning of other children, or interactions with peers and adults that are not responsive to the use of developmentally appropriate guidance, including, but not limited to, physical aggression, property destruction, and self-injury.

A district preschool 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 district first takes the following actions to address the child's behavior: (Education Code 8489.1)

1. In writing, inform the parents/guardians of the child's persistent and serious behaviors and consult with the parents/guardians and teacher in an effort to maintain the child's safe participation in the program

2. If the child has an IFSP or IEP, contact, with written parent/guardian consent, the agency or district employee responsible for such plan or program to seek consultation in regard to serving the child

3. If appropriate, consider completing a comprehensive screening of the child, including, but not limited to, screening the child's social and emotional development, referring the parents/guardians to community resources, and implementing behavior supports within the program

If the district has taken the actions specified in Items #1-3 above and the child's continued enrollment would present a serious safety threat to the child or other enrolled children, the district shall refer the parents/guardians to other potentially appropriate placements, the local child care resource and referral agency, or any other referral service available in the local community. The district shall, to the greatest extent possible, support direct transition to a more appropriate placement. The district may then unenroll the child. The district shall have up to 180 days to complete the actions described above. (Education Code 8489.1)

A child shall not be suspended from a CSPP program, nor shall a child's parent/guardian be encouraged or persuaded to prematurely pick up a child before the program day ends, except as a last resort in extraordinary circumstances, when a safety threat exists that cannot be eliminated or reduced without the removal of the child.

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Before determining that a suspension is necessary, the district shall collaborate with the child's parents/guardians and, as needed, shall use appropriate community resources to determine that no other reasonable option is appropriate.

When suspension is deemed necessary, the district shall help the child return to full participation in the program as soon as possible while ensuring safety, by doing the following:

1. Continuing to engage with the child's parents/guardians and continuing to use appropriate community resources

2. Developing a written plan to document the action and supports needed

3. Providing referrals to appropriate community resources

4. If the child has an IFSP or IEP, contacting, with written parent/guardian consent, the agency responsible for the child's IFSP or IEP, to seek consultation on servicing the child

Upon enrollment, the parents/guardians of each child shall be notified, in writing, of the limitations on expulsion, suspension, or any form of disenrollment and how the parents/guardians may file an appeal to CDE in the event of expulsion or suspension. If the district suspends or expels a child from any CSPP program, the district shall, at least 24 hours before the effective date of the suspension or expulsion, issue the child's parents/guardians a written "Notice of Action, Recipient of Services," as described in 5 CCR 17783, informing the parents/guardians of the right to file an appeal of the action directly with CDE no later than 14 calendar days after receiving the notice.

Children with exceptional needs may only be suspended or expelled in conformance with the procedures and limitations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Notice of Action

Upon receiving a parent/guardian's application for services, the Superintendent or designee shall review the application and documentation and shall certify the eligibility of the family or child.

The district's decision to approve or deny a child's enrollment shall be communicated to the family through a written Notice of Action mailed or delivered within 30 days from the date the application is signed by the parent/guardian. (5 CCR 17782)

Subsequently, the Superintendent or designee shall mail or deliver a Notice of Action to a parent/guardian at least 14 calendar days before any intended change in services, including, but not limited to, an increase or decrease in fees, an increase or decrease in the amount of services, or termination of services, due to any of the following circumstances: (5 CCR 17783)

1. A determination during recertification or update of the application that the need or eligibility requirements are no longer being met or the fee or amount of service needs to be modified

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

2. Failure of the parent/guardian to document the family's need or eligibility after the district requested such documentation in writing

3. An indication by the parent/guardian that the parent/guardian no longer wants the service

4. The death of a parent/guardian or child

5. The conclusion of a limited-term agreement, provided that the parent/guardian has been informed in writing of the date that the services would terminate

For each child enrolled in the district's preschool program, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain a family data file including, but not limited to, a completed and signed application for services, documentation of income eligibility, and a copy of all Notices of Action. For each child not receiving subsidized services, the family data file shall also include records of the specific reason(s) for enrolling each child, the child's family income, and evidence that the district has made a diligent search for children eligible for subsidized services. (5 CCR 17758)

Parent Hearing

If a parent/guardian disagrees with any district action to deny the child's eligibility for subsidized preschool services, disenroll the child due to a funding shortage, increase or decrease fees, increase or decrease the amount of services, terminate services, or otherwise change the level of services, the parent/guardian may file a request for a hearing with the Superintendent or designee within 14 calendar days of the date the Notice of Action was received. Within 10 calendar days of receiving the request for a hearing, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of the time and place of the hearing, which, to the extent possible, shall be convenient for the parent/guardian. (5 CCR 17784)

The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in 5 CCR 17784 by a district administrator who is at a staff level higher in authority than the staff person who made the contested decision. Within 10 calendar days after the hearing, the district administrator shall mail or deliver a written decision to the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the written decision, the parent/guardian may, within 14 calendar days, appeal the decision to CDE. (5 CCR 17785-17786)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

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 101151-101191	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 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	Professional Clear 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 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
W&I Code 10207-10215	General provisions
W&I Code 10207-10492.2	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

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

20 USC 6311-6322	Title I, relative to preschool
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**
CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing Publication	Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to the PK-3 Childhood Education Specialist Credential, Coded Correspondence 23-02, February 10, 2023
California Department of Education Publication	California State Preschool Program and Children with Disabilities (Exceptional Needs), Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-02, February 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Part-day California State Preschool Program as an Extended Learning and Care Option, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-05, April 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Assessment and Reporting of Family Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023–24, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-07, September 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Suspension and Expulsion in the California State Preschool Program, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-08, September 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009
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	California Department of Education, 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 Head Start Association
Website	California Preschool Instructional Network
Website	Child Development Policy Institute

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Website	California Association for the Education of Young Children
Website	First 5 California
Website	California Department of Social Services
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
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
0500	Accountability
1240	Volunteer Assistance
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
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
1700	Relations Between Private Industry And The Schools
3260	Fees And Charges
3280	Sale Or Lease Of District-Owned Real Property
3523	Electronic Signatures
3523	Electronic Signatures
3541	Transportation Routes And Services
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3580	District Records
4112	Appointment And Conditions Of Employment
4112.2	Certification
4112.4	Health Examinations
4112.5	Criminal Record Check
4112.6	Personnel Files
4131	Staff Development
4212.4	Health Examinations
4212.5	Criminal Record Check
4212.6	Personnel Files
4222	Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals
4231	Staff Development
4312.4	Health Examinations
4312.5	Criminal Record Check
4312.6	Personnel Files
4331	Staff Development
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5030	Student Wellness
5111	Admission

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5125	Student Records
5141.23	Asthma Management
5141.26	Tuberculosis Testing
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.32	Health Screening For School Entry
5141.6	School Health Services
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148	Child Care And Development
6011	Academic Standards
6020	Parent Involvement
6159	Individualized Education Program
6164.4	Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education
6170.1	Transitional Kindergarten
6171	Title I Programs
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6174	Education For English Learners
6175	Migrant Education Program
6200	Adult Education
7110	Facilities Master Plan
7210	Facilities Financing