

Instruction

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Board of Trustees recognizes that high-quality preschool experiences for children ages 3-5 help them develop knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to be successful in school and provide for a smooth transition into the elementary education program. Such programs should provide developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, well-supervised, cognitively rich environment.

Collaboration with Community Programs

The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with other agencies, organizations and 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 community-wide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

District Preschool Programs

When the Board determines that it is feasible, the district may provide preschool services at or near district schools.

The Board shall set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available. In so doing, the Board shall give 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.

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

Facilities for preschool classrooms may be addressed in the district's comprehensive facilities 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.

To enable children of working parents/guardians to participate in the district's preschool program, the Superintendent or designee may recommend strategies to provide a full-day program and/or to link to other full-day child care programs in the district or community to the extent possible.

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

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Program staff shall encourage volunteerism in the program and shall communicate frequently with parents/guardians of enrolled students regarding their child's progress.

The Board may adopt standards which identify the knowledge, skills, and experience that students will be expected to attain in the district's preschool program in order to be prepared for the early primary grades, including but not be limited to, development of language, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills.

The district's preschool program shall provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services and support the needs of English learners. The program also shall provide appropriate services for students with disabilities, including but not limited to early screening to identify special needs among preschool students and intervention services to assist students identified with special needs in accordance with law.

To maximize the ability of children to succeed in the preschool program, program staff shall support students' health through proper nutrition and physical activity and shall provide or make referrals to health and social services.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in district preschool programs possess the appropriate credential(s) or permit(s) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and meet any additional qualifications established by the Board.

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

He/she shall regularly report to the Board regarding enrollments in district preschool programs and the effectiveness of the programs in preparing preschool students for transition into the elementary education program.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 0520 - Intervention for Underperforming Schools)

(cf. 0520.1 - High Priority Schools Grant Program)

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

- (cf. 5148.1 - Child Care Services for Parenting Students)
- (cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
- (cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)
- (cf. 6164.4 - Identification of Individuals for Special Education)
- (cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)
- (cf. 3550 - Food Services/Child Nutrition Program)
- (cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
- (cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)
- (cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)
- (cf. 4112.2 - Certification)
- (cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)
- (cf. 4112.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)
- (cf. 4212.5 - Criminal Record Check)
- (cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)
- (cf. 0500 - Accountability)
- (cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 8200-8498 Child Care and Development Services Act, especially:
- 8200-8209 General provisions for child care and development services
- 8230-8226 Migrant Child Care and Development Program
- 8235-8237 State Preschool Programs
- 8240-8244 General child care programs
- 8250-8252 Programs for children with special needs
- 8263 Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services
- 8360-8370 Personnel qualification
- 8400-8409 Contracts
- 8493-8498 Facilities
- 54740-54749 Cal-SAFE program for pregnant/parenting students and their children

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

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

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 18000-18122 General provisions, general child care programs
- 18130-18136 State Preschool Program
- 18180-18192 Federal and State Based Migrant Programs
- 18210-18213 Severely Handicapped Program
- 18270-18281 Program quality, accountability
- 18290-18292 Staffing ratios
- 18295 Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

18300-18308 Appeals and dispute resolution

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311-6322 Title I, relative to preschool

6319 Qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals

6371-6376 Early Reading First

6381-6381k Even Start family literacy programs

6391-6399 Education of migratory children

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

9831-9852 Head Start programs

9858-9858q Child Care and Development Block Grant

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101151-101239.2 General requirements, licensed child care centers, including:

101151-101163 Licensing and application procedures

101212-101231 Continuing requirements

101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

1301-1310 Head Start

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Expanding Access to High-Quality Preschool Programs: A Resource and Policy Guide for School Leaders, 2005

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000

First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

CDE MANAGEMENT BULLETINS

01-06 The Desired Results for Children and Families System, May 31, 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002

WEB SITES

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

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

California Children and Families Commission: <http://www.cffc.ca.gov>

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

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

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

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

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

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Preschool California: <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>

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